

Elective Home Education



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What is Elective Home Education?

The government definition for Elective Home Education (often abbreviated to EHE) is :

‘Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.’

It is not home tuition provided by a local authority, or where a local authority provides education otherwise than at a school (EOTAS).

The tragedy of Sara Sharif



- [Sara Sharif: Questions need to be answered over murder, PM says - BBC News](#)

The national picture for Elective Home Education

National

- LAs reported 111,700 children in EHE nationally*, an increase of 21% from previous autumn term
- National EHE rate - 1.4
- Over a third of EHE children were in year groups 10 or 11

Regional

- WM EHE rate - 1.27
- Statistical neighbours – 1.9



Shropshire
















- 650 yp in autumn term, 738 end Feb, now 777
- EHE rate was 1.8 in summer term, reduced to 1.6 in autumn term
- Shropshire is above the national and WM averages, but below stat neighbours
- Top 2 known reasons given – philosophical and mental health

**Census date in Autumn 2024*

Rate of Pupils Per YR-Y11 Population

Local Authority	2023/24 - Autumn term	2023/24 - Spring term	2023/24 - Summer term	2024/25 - Autumn term
Birmingham	1.20	1.40	1.60	1.40
Coventry	0.80	0.80	0.90	0.90
Dudley	1.00	1.10	1.30	1.30
Herefordshire	1.10	1.40	1.60	0.00
Sandwell	1.10	1.20	1.40	1.40
Shropshire	1.40	1.50	1.80	1.60
Solihull	1.10	1.20	1.40	1.30
Staffordshire	1.10	1.30	1.40	1.30
Stoke-on-Trent	1.10	1.20	1.40	1.30
Telford and Wrekin	1.50	1.60	1.80	1.80
Walsall	1.10	1.20	1.40	1.20
Warwickshire	0.00	0.00	1.70	1.60
Wolverhampton	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.30
Worcestershire	1.20	1.20	1.50	1.40
Total	1.05	1.16	1.47	1.27

Rate Trends

Local Authority	Average of rate	Average of rate by Year & Time period
Birmingham	1.40	
Coventry	0.85	
Dudley	1.18	
Herefordshire	1.03	
Sandwell	1.28	
Shropshire	1.58	
Solihull	1.25	
Staffordshire	1.28	
Stoke-on-Trent	1.25	
Telford and Wrekin	1.68	
Walsall	1.23	
Warwickshire	0.83	
Wolverhampton	1.23	
Worcestershire	1.33	
Total	1.24	

EHE Pupil Group and Reasons : Shropshire

Elective Home Education: Aut 23 to Aut 24 by term - Gender, Year Group and Reason

WEST MIDLANDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FlourWestMidlands



Department
for Education

Year & Time period

2024/25 - Autumn term

Local Authority

Shropshire

Gender	Number	% of Group
Male	300	46
Female	350	54
Total	650	100

Year Group	Number	% of Group
Year 10	110	17
Year 11	110	17
Year 9	90	14
Year 8	80	12
Year 6	50	7
Year 7	50	8
Year 3	40	6
Year 4	40	7
Year 2	30	0
Year 5	30	0
Year 1	20	0
Reception	0	0
Total	650	88

Reason	Number	% of Group
Unknown	230	36
Philosophical	120	18
Mental health	90	14
School dissatisfaction general	50	8
Other	40	6
School dissatisfaction bullying	30	0
Health covid	20	0
Lifestyle	20	0
Physical health	20	0
Did not get school preference	10	0
No reason given	10	0
School dissatisfaction send	10	0
Difficulty accessing suitable school place	0	0
Permanent exclusion	0	0
Religious	0	0
Risk of school exclusion	0	0
School suggestion	0	0
Total	650	82

The Legal Framework

- Parents have a duty to secure an efficient full-time education for their children suitable for their age, ability and aptitude. (Section 7 of the Education Act 1996)
- Every LA must have a Named Officer for EHE. The LA must identify children in its area who are not receiving a suitable education (Section 436A of the Education Act 1996)
- Under Section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996, the Council can intervene if there is good reason to believe that parents are not providing a suitable education.
- Safeguarding, including KCSIE
- Off-rolling: schools must not persuade parents or influence their decision to educate their child at home as a way of avoiding exclusion, poor attendance, challenging behaviour and/or potential poor academic success.
- The LA is not financially responsible for educating a child under EHE, even if they have an EHCP – but an Annual Review must still be held.



Parents/carers are not required to

Teach

- teach the National Curriculum or provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

Have

- have a timetable or observe school hours, days or terms.

Have

- have premises equipped to any particular standard or have set hours during which education will take place.

Have

- have any specific qualifications or make detailed plans in advance or provide formal lessons.

Mark

- mark work done by their children or formally assess progress or set development objectives.

Enter

- enter their child for public examinations.

Reproduce

- reproduce school type peer group socialisation.

Q. What are some of the positives of EHE?

- Create own curriculum to focus on interests
- Learning can be child led & support independence
- Individual or small group attention
- Less constrained
- Schedule is more flexible
- Increased time with family
- Some parents cite improved child wellbeing



Q. What might be some of the challenges ?



- Financial commitment
- Time and pressure on parents
- Exam centres
- Social integration
- Access to resources
- Alerts for health eg vaccinations
- Safeguarding
- Schools/LA is not required to assist, including for SEN



The Shropshire picture

(end Feb 2024)

Shropshire Schools	Number of yp EHE	Number returned to school this month	% with suitable education
Primary	236	1	65
Secondary	502	1	63
EHCP	46	0	65
Identified SEN inc EHCNA	147	0	39
CP Plan	4	0	25
CIN	3	0	0
Combined	738	2	472

Shropshire EHE numbers are now 777 (22.4.25)



Shropshire's EHE Policy

- Consultation with social care, SEND, and safeguarding partners – Jan/Feb2025
- Finalised March 2025

[Elective Home Education | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)

[Elective home education | Shropshire Council](#)

- Focus on safeguarding aspects and preparing for the expected changes in the Children's Bill.

Shropshire Processes and Procedures

- Schools should offer parents a meeting to discuss their wish to EHE and invite EAS
- Early Help - <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/e-hast-early-help-and-support-team/>
- Notification process for EHE – schools must include any safeguarding concerns on the Form
- Safeguarding concerns will be looked at carefully with partners before a child is de-registered from school
- Consent must be sought by parents if the child has an EHCP and attends a specialist provision
- Monitoring and support is provided by the Education Access Services (EAS).
- Home visit offered annually as standard
- Parents are not legally required to give access to their home or for their child to be present. They may, for example, choose to meet the officer at a mutually convenient/neutral location instead.
- However, they must still provide evidence of a suitable education if they decline a visit
- A full written report on the findings will be made by EAS and copied to parents
- The report will specify if there are any grounds for concern.
- Parents have a reasonable opportunity to improve their provision and report back. If the LA continues to not be satisfied that efficient education is being provided, consideration will be given to the child being considered as a Child Missing Education (CME) and formal attendance procedures may start



National Panel Recommendations and preparation for the Childrens Bill

Parents will most likely have to obtain local authority consent to home educate a child on

- a CP Plan
- under a S47
- currently at a specialist/independent school

LA requirement will most likely be to

- review provision for CP who are home educated
- enforce school attendance (via a School Attendance Order) if consider EHE is 'unsuitable' for cyp on a CP Plan / S47
- have a compulsory Not in School register

National Panel Recommendations:

Health will need to enquire about education when there is a concern for the cyp welfare

Protocol for the CP Chair

The expectation is that the Child Protection Chair will strongly recommend a return to school - or not agree the parental request for EHE if the cyp is already supported on a CP Plan.

EHE is not agreed. A return to school is written into the Child Protection Plan

A supportive plan for the child to return to their most recent school is made – or in exceptional circumstances another school is considered. EAS ensure the cyp's Safeguarding files from the original school are transferred to the new setting.

EHE is agreed as an exception.

The agreement for EHE will be reviewed at the next Core group meeting taking safety of the cyp into account

Expectation is that the CP Chair will consider non-compliance from parents/carers as an **additional risk factor** and take this into account when reviewing the Plan. The CP Chair works collaboratively with EAS practitioners to consider if the cyp is identified as 'missing education', or if there is 'educational neglect', also if use of an Attendance Order is appropriate to support cyp to return to school.

1. The LA has a right to come into a family's house to inspect the quality of EHE

FALSE

2. A parent who EHEs their child must teach the National Curriculum

FALSE

3. A family cannot remove their child from the roll of a specialist school without LA consent

TRUE

4. The LA is not financially responsible for a child who is electively home educated, even if they have an EHCP

TRUE



Our ask of you...

Know and use Shropshire's process and expectations

Exercise professional curiosity to mitigate risks – everyone plays their part



Key contacts in our Education Access Service

- *Adriana Coupe, Lead and EHE Named Officer*
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Key documents and links



Shropshire's EHE Policy

- [Elective Home Education | Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)
- [Elective home education | Shropshire Council](#)

Shropshire's Flowchart for families and schools

- <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/aaddfdh5/ehe-flowchart-for-families.pdf>
- <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/2w5ijntl/ehe-process-flowchart-for-schools.pdf>

[Educating your child at home - GOV.UK](#)

[Elective home education - GOV.UK](#)

Resources and support for families - [Elective home education | Shropshire Council](#)

ANY
questions?