

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION (EHE) – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

How do I inform the Authorities?

If your child has never attended school, you are under no obligation to tell anybody that you are home educating, but we advise you to inform the Local Authority so that you can be signposted to and access support, advice and accurate information.

If your child has attended school, however, we advise that you write to the head teacher of your child's school to inform them of your decision to avoid any confusion or attendance issues. It is helpful if the letter includes the following information;

- child's full name
- child's date of birth
- family address
- explicit statement of intention to provide EHE and request to be removed from the school roll (*I wish to provide my child with home education; I wish to home educate my child; I'm going to educate her myself* are acceptable; *My child is not coming back to your school* is unacceptable)
- date from which EHE is to commence (cannot be backdated)
- signature of the person with parental responsibility
- date

Lewisham Local Authority will not accept emails as written evidence.

Once you have written to your child's Headteacher, the school will make a referral to the Local Authority's EHE team and we will write to you.

What if my child attends a Special School?

Where a child or young person is a registered pupil at a special school and the parent decides to home educate, the parent must still notify the school in writing that the child or young person is receiving education otherwise than at school and the school must then remove the pupil's name from the admission register. In this case, the Local Authority must give consent for the child's name to be removed, but this should not be a lengthy or complex process. Contact your child's SEN caseworker to discuss the situation and to find out how to secure consent. If you do not know the name of your caseworker, contact the Lewisham SEN team: sen@lewisham.gov.uk 020 3049 1475

I really just want my child out of their current school

Some parents decide to home educate because they and/or their children are experiencing difficulties in school which they believe cannot be overcome. They mistakenly believe that declaring EHE will move them up a waiting list for a preferred school or increase priority for a school place. It will not. EHE is considered as educational provision, just as if the child were in a school.

You should be aware that if home education ceases for any reason (e.g. your child wants to go back to school, you change your mind about wanting to home educate, circumstances change, your provision is found to be unsuitable, etc.) then Lewisham's policy is that the child will return to the school from which they were withdrawn in the first instance. This is the case even if you apply for other Lewisham schools.

Sometimes it may be that the relationship between family and school has broken down entirely or your child is so unhappy that they are refusing to attend and you have been unable to find a solution in partnership with the school. In this case you may feel your child needs a fresh start in a new

school and, as long as your child is still on roll, you can apply to transfer to another school by completing an in-year application to Lewisham Admissions team, naming up to 3 schools. You also need to bear in mind that schools are generally full so you may not get your first choice.

Sometimes the assistance of a third party who can be impartial can help resolve matters. You can call Lewisham's Attendance, Inclusion and Participation Service (AIPS) to ask for support: 020 8314 6272.

What do I have to teach?

There are no rules about what you must teach your child if you are home educating. You do not have to follow the National Curriculum or adopt a school-style education. In fact, some parents home educate precisely because it provides the freedom to educate your child in an entirely different way.

If you think your child may return to mainstream education at some point in the future, it makes sense to be aware of what their school-based peers are learning. Below are some resources that may be useful:

Below is the link to the **National Curriculum** in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview>

Online Courses

The websites below offer online courses for **primary aged** children. It must be emphasised that we are unable to vouch for their quality:

<http://www.structuredhomelearning.com/>

<http://www.atschool.co.uk/>

<http://www.briteschool.co.uk/>

For **secondary aged** children, the Oxford Homeschooling programme is the one most recommended to us by other parents looking for a school style curriculum:

<http://www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk/>

Tel: 0800 0111 024

Below are some links to **alternative providers** which appear to be live and still active. We can't tell without registering. Please note that we cannot make judgements about any of these sites or verify their quality.

<http://www.interhigh.co.uk/>

www.wolseyhalloxford.org.uk

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.structuredhomelearning.com/

www.homeeducationspecialists.org.uk/key-stage-3-courses

http://www.weshome.com/courses/ks_3_english.htm

<https://www.icslearn.co.uk/courses/gcse-and-igcse/>

The following yahoo support group/ online forum one parent described as “brilliant – a lifeline”

HE-Exams-GCSE-A_AS_Levels-OU-Others@yahoogroups.com

All Ways Educating (AWE) has a discount website with exclusive offers for Home Educators, see www.awediscounts.com Popular products include ConquerMaths (59% discount), ConquerComputing (50% discount) and Purple Mash (50% discount). The site is run by Debbie who has 16 years’ experience as a Home Educator and new products and discounts are added frequently. To be kept up to date with offers, you can also follow the AWEdiscounts Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AWEdiscounts/>

School Websites

You can find an outline of each **school’s curriculum** on their website. If you go to a school's website, click on the link to 'Curriculum' and you will find an outline, term by term, for each year group, often accompanied by a philosophy or rationale. This is useful because you can see what your child would be covering if they were at the school, what the school is doing with younger children and what they will do with the year groups above. Click on the links below to see a couple of examples from Lewisham schools. Once onto each site you can navigate, clicking on the menus which come up.

http://lee.brindisheschools.org/_files/4B73D6C9DD239DBD1B18962003FFA3AB.pdf

<http://www.gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk/curriculum/>

<http://www.as.lewisham.sch.uk/34/design-and-technology>

Local Home Education Support Groups

There are many support groups locally. There is the **Lewisham Home Education Network** which meets termly and is organised by the Local Authority (LA). Once you are registered with us you will automatically receive invitations to the meetings.

The **South London Home Education Group (SLHE)** can also put you in touch with other home educating families and activities. At present there are a number of weekly meetings in the borough, some for purely social activities and others covering sports or group lessons in a variety of subjects.

Their email address is slondonhe@gmail.com

The SLHE wiki is at www.slhe.wikia.com This has an overview of activities in the area and links to resources e.g. popular online learning sites with discounts for home educators, information on taking exams as an external candidate, and SEN support.

The SLHE has a directory of London home education groups which they can send out to new home educators. Because this includes personal contact details for a large number of people, including private phone numbers and addresses, they don't make it publicly available online but are happy to provide it to home educators on request.

Private Tutors

Many parents employ private tutors, especially to provide extra expert tuition in preparation for GCSE's and A Levels. Please note that there is no register of approved tutors held by the LA since tutors do not have to be Ofsted registered.

It is essential that you check a tutor's credentials to ensure that they are qualified and have a current valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate (police check to ensure the person has no conviction preventing them working with children or vulnerable adults). Ask to see evidence and check references with those who have written them to ensure that they are genuine – anybody can claim to be a tutor and documents are easily forged. Personal recommendation of the tutor or of an organised institution is possibly the best way to proceed.

If you would like more information about GCSE's and examinations, please contact us and request our leaflet: *GCSE and Exams for EHE*.

The following organisations have been suggested to us by home educating parents in Lewisham but we cannot vouch for them in any way:

Catford Excel Centre

www.catfordASC@gmail.com

115 Rushey Green, London, SE6 4AA

020 3651 2032

info@excelexamcentres.co.uk

Best Tutors

info@besttutors.co.uk

1-19 Wakefield Street, Edmonton, London, N18 2BZ

020 8807 4170

Dulwich Tutors

info@dulwichtutors.com

B21.6, Parkhall Business Centre, 40 Martell Road, Dulwich, SE21 8EN

020 8653 3502

Funding

At the present time there is **no funding locally or nationally to support home educators**: the LA cannot provide financial support, there is no central tuition service or bank of tutors or resources

that parents can access. **Full responsibility for all aspects of educational provision, including any additional requirements for a child with SEN, now falls to the parent.**

There is **no automatic provision for young people to take public examinations** – these also have to be researched, funded, organised and resourced by parents.

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