

# Elective Home Education



## Guide for Parents

# EHE Guide for Parents

## What the law says

As a parent or carer, it is up to you to make sure your child gets a suitable education until they reach the end of compulsory school age. (This is the last Friday in June of the school year they turn 16).

## Education is Compulsory

– but it does not have to be in school. Some parents choose to educate their child in other ways. This is called *Elective Home Education*, or *EHE* for short.



## What should you think about before you choose EHE for your child?

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**1** You must show that your child is doing work at the right level for their ability.

*How will you find suitable work for your child to do?*

If you choose EHE for your child, you will have to find work for them yourself. It is not provided by schools, or by the council. There are lots of resources online, as well as books and other materials. You will need to spend time looking at them and deciding which is best for your child.

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**2** You will need to show that your child is making progress.

*How will you assess what level your child is working at?*

Not all children are the same. Your child may be working at a different level to other children the same age. You need to keep track of what your child can do, so you can give them work that helps them make progress. Not too easy, not too hard.

## What should you think about before you choose EHE for your child?

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### **3** You will be asked to share information with the local authority.

#### *How will you assess your child's learning to show they are making progress?*

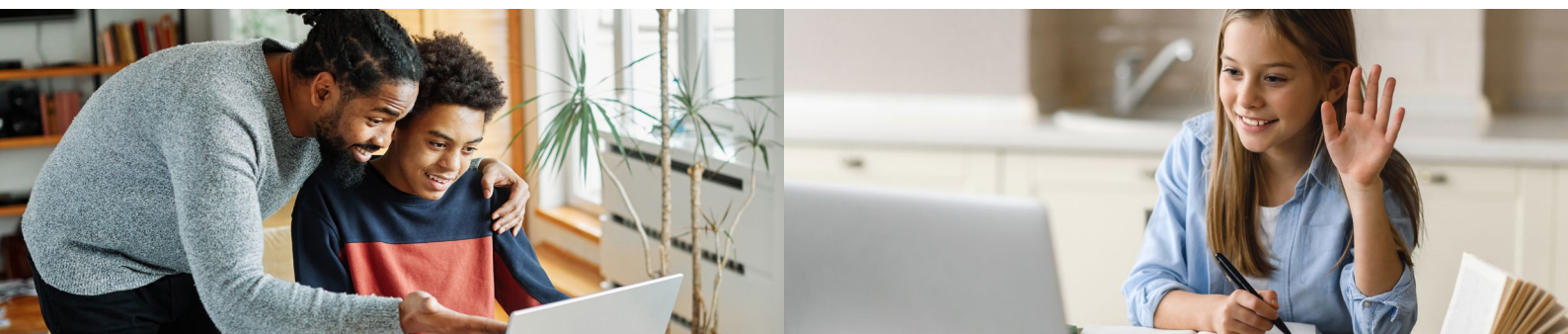
By law, we have to make sure all children in Kent are receiving a suitable, full-time education, whether in school or by EHE. It is advisable for you to share information with us about your child's education, the progress they are making and what they can remember. You do not have to use formal tests, although these can be useful.

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### **4** You will need to teach your child new skills.

#### *How will you make sure your child learns and retains new skills?*

You need to know how your child learns best, and help them remember information. You can teach them yourself, or use a tutor, either online or in person. This can be a good choice for subjects you are less confident with. The most important thing is that your child learns and makes progress especially in English and Maths.



### **5** Parents who choose EHE are responsible for all financial aspects of their child's education.

#### *How will you pay for elective home education?*

At KCC, we do not provide funding for home-educated children, so you need to be sure you can meet the cost. This depends on the resources you use and type of teaching you choose to do. For example, a face-to-face tutor could charge up to £50 an hour; textbooks can cost more than £30 each. Online teaching for maths and English through a subscription website will cost £13-£20 a month; a full online school could be £4,000 a year. You will also need to pay for your child to take exams like GCSEs if you wish them to sit them: this will cost around £150 per paper. *(Figures given are 2024 based and subject to change)*

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### **6** Young people should be in education, employment or training until 18.

#### *How will you prepare your child for the next step in life?*

If you are planning to put your child back into school in the future, you need to make sure their home education will prepare them for this. If you are planning to home educate until they are old enough to leave, you need to plan ahead for what they will do next. This could be going to college, applying for an apprenticeship, or finding a job. It is important that you know what qualifications your child will need for their preferred options or opportunities.

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**7 Children need to be engaged and enjoy learning at home.**

*How will you keep your child interested and excited about learning?*

Teaching your own child can be very rewarding. It can also be challenging, especially if your child has additional needs or found school difficult. Most children see home as somewhere to relax, not a place to focus and learn. You need to make the work enjoyable, and something they want to do for a large part of their day.

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**8 Home-educated children should not be on their own too much.**

*How will you help your child to meet and spend time with other children?*

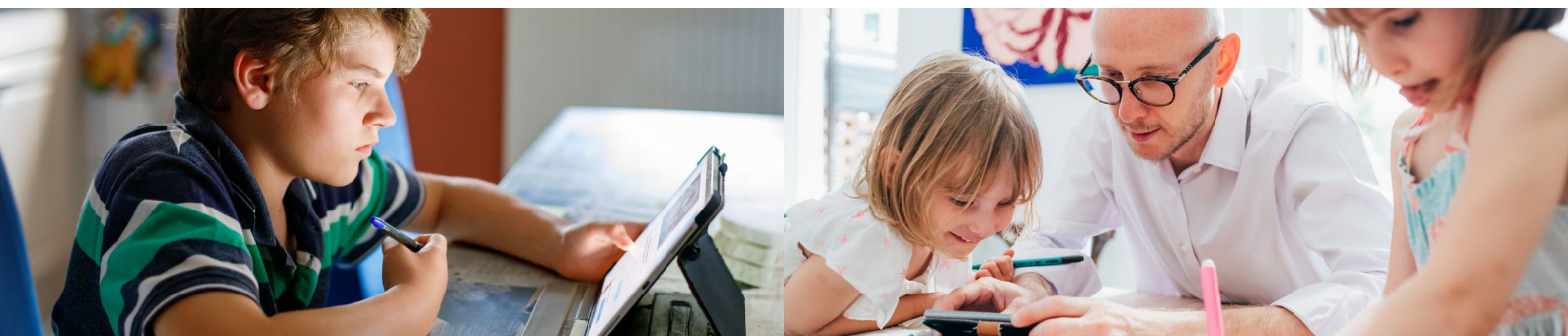
In school, children work and play together throughout the day. They also learn to talk to adults and how to deal with different group situations. These communication and social skills are vital in later life. You need to give your child opportunities to engage with other children in ways that suit their age, ability and any additional needs.

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**9 There is a limit to how many students a school can have in each year group.**

*What will you do if you cannot provide a suitable education at home for your child or no longer wish to home educate?*

If you decide to put your child back into school, for whatever reason, you will need to apply through the school's in-year admissions process. Places are limited, so your child may not be able to join your preferred school, even if they went there before or it is the nearest school to your home. You need to know what you will do if this happens. By law, you must provide your child with a suitable education. If you cannot do this, you may be taken to court and face a possible fine.



**What are the alternatives to EHE?**

You should always speak to your child's school first. Talk to them about any issues and see what support they can offer, such as mental health support or a reduced timetable. Once you have told the school you want to home educate your child, it will be too late to access any support the school can put in place.

You could also think about moving your child to a different school. You should not take your child out of their current school until they have a confirmed place and start date at the new school. You can find more details about moving schools on our website.

Please see [www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/move-to-a-different-school](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/move-to-a-different-school)