



What is Elective Home Education?

Elective home education, sometimes referred to as EHE, is a term used to describe when parents educate their children at home instead of sending them to school. In Pembrokeshire, as with the rest of the UK, education is compulsory, but going to school is not.

Why do people choose to home educate?

Your decision to educate your child at home may be influenced by a number of reasons including philosophical, spiritual or religious beliefs. You may also feel that you are better able to meet your child's individual needs and learning style than a school.

A school or local authority should never encourage you to remove your child from the school register to avoid your child from being excluded or you being prosecuted. You can contact Parent Partnership for advice and support about this.

What do I need to teach?

Your responsibility as a parent is to make sure that what is taught is helping your child to learn. The education you provide must be efficient and suitable. Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996 it is your duty as a parent to make sure your child receives efficient full-time education suitable for their age, ability and aptitude and for any special educational needs they may have.

This can be done either at school or otherwise. Education is considered efficient and suitable if it allows a child to achieve their potential and prepares them for adult life.

You don't have to follow the national Curriculum, but you might find it helpful to use it as a framework to decide which subjects.

www.learning.gov.wales/resources/improvementareas/curriculum/?lang=en

You don't need to be a teacher and you do not need any qualifications.

What happens if it appears that I'm not providing a suitable education?

Under section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996, local authorities have a duty to take action if it appears that parents are not providing a suitable education. An officer from Pembrokeshire County Council will offer to make a home visit with the aim of helping you overcome the difficulties within an agreed timescale. If you fail to prove to the local authority that you are providing a suitable education, and they feel it necessary for your child to go to school, they must serve a school attendance order (SAO) on you. For more information on SAOs, please see the All Wales Attendance Framework:

www.learning.gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/pupilsupport/framework/?lang=en

Will I receive any funding or support?

If you choose to educate your child at home, you must be prepared to take on full financial responsibility, including paying the cost of any public exams. Although the local authority does not receive or give any funding for children who are electively home educated, there are some groups and activities in Pembrokeshire for children and families. Further information can be given by contacting the EHE Officer or Parent Partnership.

Will my child be able to take examinations?

You can enter your child for examinations at your local external examination centre. However, you will have to pay the cost yourself. Pembrokeshire County Council can inform you of local exam centres.

What should I do if I am interested in home educating my child?

If your child is in school, you should write to the headteacher asking them to remove your child's name from the register as you plan to take responsibility for their education. The headteacher will remove your child's name from the register and tell the local authority.

If your child has never been to school, you do not need to give notice to the school. You can instead write to the Local Authority to inform them.

An officer from Pembrokeshire County Council will then contact you.

What should I do if my child has a Statement of special educational needs (SEN)?

The same procedure applies if your child has a Statement of SEN and goes to a mainstream school. However, if your child goes to a special school, you will need to get permission from the local authority before removing them from school. In either case, the education you provide must meet the aims of the Statement of SEN.

Can my child return to school?

Yes, you just need to contact Pembrokeshire County Council admissions department, or the school directly. However, there is no guarantee that there will be a place at the school your child previously went to.

Here are some questions to consider before deciding to educate your child at home.

- *Is your child positive about the suggestion of being educated at home?*
- *Are you are convinced it is best for your child?*
- *Do you have the time to devote to your child's education?*
- *Do you have the ability to teach your child effectively?*

- *Will you be able to educate your child to the required level if they want to take GCSEs?*
- *Are you are prepared to buy the necessary resources?*
- *Are you able to pay for examination fees?*
- *Do you have other support available?*
- *Do you have the space to create a quiet working area?*
- *Are there opportunities for physical exercise?*
- *Will social experiences with other children be available?*

Sometimes parents feel they have to remove their child from a school, but this is not what they really want to do. If you are considering EHE due to breakdown in communication with school, or other reasons where you feel you have no choice, you can call the Parent Partnership Service for advice on all your options.

Useful contacts and resources:

Parent Partnership Services

Tel: 01437 776354

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/parent-partnership-service

Careers Wales

www.careerswales.com

Ed Yourself

www.edyourself.org

Education begins at home

www.facebook.com/beginsathome

Education Otherwise

www.educationotherwise.net

Friends, Families and Travellers

www.gypsy-traveller.org/education

Home Education UK

www.home-education.org.uk

Home Education Advisory Service

www.heas.org.uk

Learning Wales

www.gov.wales/learning

TSO

www.tso.co.uk

Welsh Government

www.gov.wales