

Elective Home Education in Gloucestershire: Guidance for Parents

As schools reopen fully in September we are aware that a number of families may be thinking about Elective Home Education. We encourage families to think carefully about this and the aim of this document is to provide you with all you need to know to make an informed choice.

As parents you have the right to choose to Electively Home Educate, but we are aware that, as a result of COVID -19, people's experience of school-at-home may be different from general Elective Home Education. The freedom to follow your child's interests, work at their pace and spend time together as a family, often makes this important choice worthwhile. It is important that you understand what it entails and we want to make sure everyone feels as supported as possible.

What are the differences?

Schools have provided work for families which may have given you structure and variety and this **will not continue** if you choose to Electively Home Educate. There have also been additional one-off educational opportunities through social media, for example, Joe Wicks' PE Lessons and cooking with Jamie Oliver. In addition to this, many online resources have made their packages free to use, such as Twinkl and The Khan Academy, which again will eventually come at a cost. It is also important to note that the Elective Home Education community has been affected by Covid-19 as any other approach to education, and still remains so. Many of the social opportunities and activities, such as Forest School or group lessons stopped during lock down and now have to operate in a very different way.

How can parents understand what Elective Home Education looks like?

- ✓ A good starting point is our website – [GCC Home Education](#)
- ✓ Carefully consider the information provided and perhaps contact a Parent Adviser at GCC to discuss further (see EHE Contact details below)
- ✓ Look at the [DfE Elective Home Education – Guidance for Parents](#)
- ✓ Look at our [GCC Elective Home Education Policy](#)
- ✓ Chat to any existing Elective Home Educators you may know, or ask to be put in touch with them.

What happens once I've made the decision to Electively Home Educate?

1. Your child's school could offer you an **Exit Discussion** where they can also invite a representative from the LA to talk about EHE, but this is optional.
2. If you wish to Home Educate, you need to send in a **letter** to the school stating your wishes.
3. The school then notifies the LA.
4. The LA Elective Home Education team will then be in touch and you will be allocated an EHE adviser who will make contact with you.
5. The following can also be found on our [GCC Home Education](#)
 - a. Contact details for Parents wishing to know more
 - b. FAQ's for Parents
 - c. Safeguarding information
 - d. Information about Immunisations
 - e. Information about the Library service
 - f. Unregistered Schools

EHE Contact Details

 - ehe@gloucestershire.gov.uk

 - 01452 427622

What will you be responsible for of you choose to EHE?

EDUCATION

You are fully responsible for providing your child's education ensuring it is suitable to the child's age & ability.

You have full **financial** responsibility for your child's education, including IT equipment, study materials, textbooks, tuition fees, etc.

SAFEGUARDING

If you wish to employ a tutor you are responsible for finding one and ensuring their suitability, e.g. DBS check, quality of teaching, etc.

You might wish to ask existing Elective Home Educators for recommendations.

You may wish to wait a few weeks to establish whether a tutor is the correct solution for your family.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Your child will not be entitled to Free School Meals or LA transport if attending college as part of their EHE provision.

There will no longer be state funded access to services such as Educational Psychology or the Advisory Teaching Service (except in some cases where a child has an Education Health Care Plan, which **may** be agreed and commissioned by the local authority on an individual basis).

ACCESS TO SCHOOLS

If you wish for your child to return to school an application through In Year Admissions will need to be made.

There is no enhanced admission priority given to a home educated child subsequently seeking a new school place.

If a school place is not available in your catchment school and you require school transport to another school this may not be funded by the Local Authority.

EXAMS

If you would like your child to achieve qualifications you are responsible for finding an exam centre, willing to accept external candidates, for the appropriate exam board.

You will have to meet the costs of the examination which can be in the region of £40 per subject.

You need to be aware that at Key Stage 4 it will be difficult to access examinations of a practical nature such as Art, IT, Design and Technology and Science. There are equivalent qualifications available, for example Arts Award & Association Board of Music.

COLLEGE PLACEMENTS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

An immediate college placement, or a placement at a training provider, is not guaranteed. Often a requirement before starting is that a child is home educated for a minimum of six months.

School-aged college placements and placements with training providers are only part-time. You will be responsible for your child's education for the remainder of the week.

Apprenticeships are not available to a child of compulsory school age.

Any employment that your child takes part in will require a work permit issued by the LA and will be restricted in terms of nature and amount as would be the case for all children of compulsory school age.

Work Experience placements organised by school, with the necessary checks, are not available.