

Elective Home Education in Gloucestershire: Guidance for Schools

The aim of this briefing is to provide advice and guidance to schools with all the information that is needed to help support families due to growing concerns, both locally and nationally, that there will be an increase in families who choose to home educate their children after the Covid-19 lockdown.

Parent may choose to Electively Home Educate because of any of the following: -

- They have seen a significant change in their children since educating them at home
- Parents of children with Emotional Based School Avoidance might now see EHE as a realistic option
- Parents have enjoyed home educating their children during lockdown
- Parents are afraid of Covid-19 and have anxieties about their children returning to school and/or are themselves in the high risk vulnerable group.

Parents have the right to choose to Electively Home Educate, but we have considered that, as a result of COVID 19, there may be a change in those who are choosing this route. We have tried to pre-empt that choice and looked at way's in which we collectively can help reduce an increase in numbers. The information provided by schools around plans and risk assessments will be critical to give parents the information, and hopefully reassurance, they need.

How can schools provide reassurance to parents on the safety of children?

- ✓ Look at an incremental approach during the autumn term to build parent confidence
- ✓ Identify Children and Young People where you believe parents might be anxious about returning full time in September
 - For those identified children you can offer individual support to those families
- ✓ Share Covid-19 Risk Assessment with all parents
- ✓ Provide targeted support to families who have a history of anxieties around school
- ✓ Complete individual risk assessments for children with additional needs
- ✓ Consider what provision is available for families who have to isolate
- ✓ Request support from GCC where you are aware the children have additional needs.
 - The [Inclusion Team Guidance](#) has all the contacts you need
- ✓ Refer to information already sent out which can be found on the [Schoolsnet Bulletin Board](#)
- ✓ Refer to [DfE Guidance](#) (Pg.22)

DfE Guidance for full opening: schools, 7th August 2020 - Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school

All other pupils must attend school. Schools should bear in mind the potential concerns of pupils, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and put the right support in place to address this. This may include pupils who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary, those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes.

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, we recommend schools discuss their concerns and provide reassurance of the measures they are putting in place to reduce the risk in school. Schools should be clear with parents that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc).

It will be important for parents to understand what they are taking on if they choose to EHE as it is very different from the Covid-19 experience of Home Education. There are concerns that both are seen as the same, but they are definitely not. Schools have provided work for families which could have given them structure and variety and this will not continue should parents wish to Electively Home Educate. There have also been a lot of additional things happening through social media, for example, Joe Wicks PE Lessons and cooking with Jamie Oliver. These are not available in the non-Covid world. 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. We will produce advice and guidance for parents which will be aimed at providing reassurance and making an informed choice.

What should schools do if parents are suggesting they wish to Electively Home Educate?

1. Hold an **Exit Discussion** with the parents and invite a representative from the LA – [Exit Discussion Template](#)
2. If parents still wish to Home Educate, they need to send in a **letter** to the school stating their wishes
3. The school then completes a **Deregistration Form**
4. School sends – Exit Discussion (if held), Letter from parent and Deregistration form to ehe@gloucestershire.gov.uk
5. The following can also be found on our [Schoolsnet Page](#)
 - a. [EHE - A Guide for Schools](#) leaflet
 - b. [DfE EHE Guidance for Schools](#)
 - c. [DfE EHE Guidance for Parents](#)
 - d. Contact details for Parents wishing to know more
 - e. FAQ's for Parents
 - f. Safeguarding information
 - g. Link to our Public [Home Education Page](#)
 - h. [GCC Elective Home Education Policy](#)

EHE Contact Details

✉ - ehe@gloucestershire.gov.uk

☎ - 01452 427622