

Elective Home Education Policy and Guidance

August 2023

Responsible Officer – Lynn Mitchell

Review date: August 2024



Introduction

This policy aims to inform schools, parents, local authority advisers and other related agencies across Middlesbrough about the policy and procedures to be followed where parents/carers make the decision to educate their children otherwise than at school, usually at home. This practice is known as Elective Home Education (EHE).

The term “parent” is used throughout this policy to include all those with parental responsibility. The policy does not apply to children receiving alternative educational provision from the Local Authority (LA) or because they are not attending school as a result of illness, exclusion or any other reason.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the DfE Elective Home Education- Departmental Guidance for Local Authorities and Departmental Guidance for Parents, April 2019.

Policy Principles

Middlesbrough Council

- respects the rights of parents and carers to elect to educate their children at home;
- recognises that there are many approaches to educational provision;
- believes that all children should be involved in a learning process.
- will work to promote positive relationships and mutual respect with parents for the benefit and educational wellbeing of children.

This policy document applies to those children whose parents/guardians have chosen to educate their children at home. This document sets out

- parents’ rights to educate their children at home and their responsibilities,
- the legal duties and responsibilities of Head teachers
- the legal duties and responsibilities of the LA.

It also sets out the arrangements we will make in order to carry out our legal duties under Sections 437 – 443 Education Act 1996 i.e. if it appears that a child of compulsory school age is not receiving education suitable to age, ability, aptitude and special needs, to take steps to ensure that this is remedied:

“If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education.”

Section 437(2) of the Act provides that the period shall be not less than 15 days beginning with the day on which the notice is served.

1. Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

1.1 The law states it is the duty of parents to ensure the education of their children. In England education is compulsory, but schooling is not. Parents may choose to educate their children at home instead of sending them to school and are not required to register or seek approval in order to educate their child at home unless the child is on the roll of a special school.

1.2 The parents' legal duty is set out in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 as follows:

"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to:

(a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and

(b) to any special educational needs he may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise"

1.3 The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Article 2 of Protocol No 1 also supports this, stating:

"No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions."

1.4 An "efficient" and "suitable" education is not defined in the Education Act 1996 but "efficient" has been broadly described in case law as an education that "achieves that which it sets out to achieve", and a "suitable" education is one that "*primarily equips a child for life within the community of which he is a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child's options in later years to adopt some other form of life if he wishes to do so*".

1.5 Whichever course a parent/guardian decides to take it is a good idea for them to talk to the child and take their wishes and feelings about their education into account.

1.6 Home educating parents are not required to:

- follow the national curriculum;
- have premises equipped to any particular standard;
- make detailed plans in advance;
- set hours during which education will take place;
- cover the same syllabus as any school;
- observe school hours, days or term times;
- have a timetable or lesson plans;
- teach formal lessons

A Guide for Parents on Elective Home Education in Middlesbrough is available- see Appendix 2.

1.7 Children who have not previously attended a mainstream school.

When a child has not previously been on the roll of a mainstream school the parent is not required to:

- seek permission to educate “otherwise”
- take the initiative in informing the Local Authority
- have regular contact or meet with the Local Authority

However, the Local Authority may make enquiries of parents who are educating at home to establish that a suitable education is being provided (as per the Local Authorities legal duties), and to ensure the welfare of and appropriate support for the family and children involved.

Parents are under no legal duty to respond to such enquiries, but, as a Local Authority, we are keen to promote a supportive, positive relationship with home educating families.

1.8 Where children are registered with a school:

Parents of a child who is registered at a maintained or independent school must inform the school formally by writing to the Head teacher stating their intention to de-register their child from the school and to instead home educate.

If a parent does not inform the Head teacher in writing a child will remain on roll and the parent may be liable to prosecution for non-attendance.

2. The Head Teacher’s Duty

2.1 It is the duty of the Head Teacher (Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006) to inform the Local Authority (LA) when a parent has confirmed in writing his or her decision to educate his or her child otherwise than at school. The pupil’s name must remain on the school admission register until Middlesbrough Council confirm the child’s name can be removed following the necessary safeguarding checks. At this point the child will be recorded on a register kept by Middlesbrough Council of children being home educated.

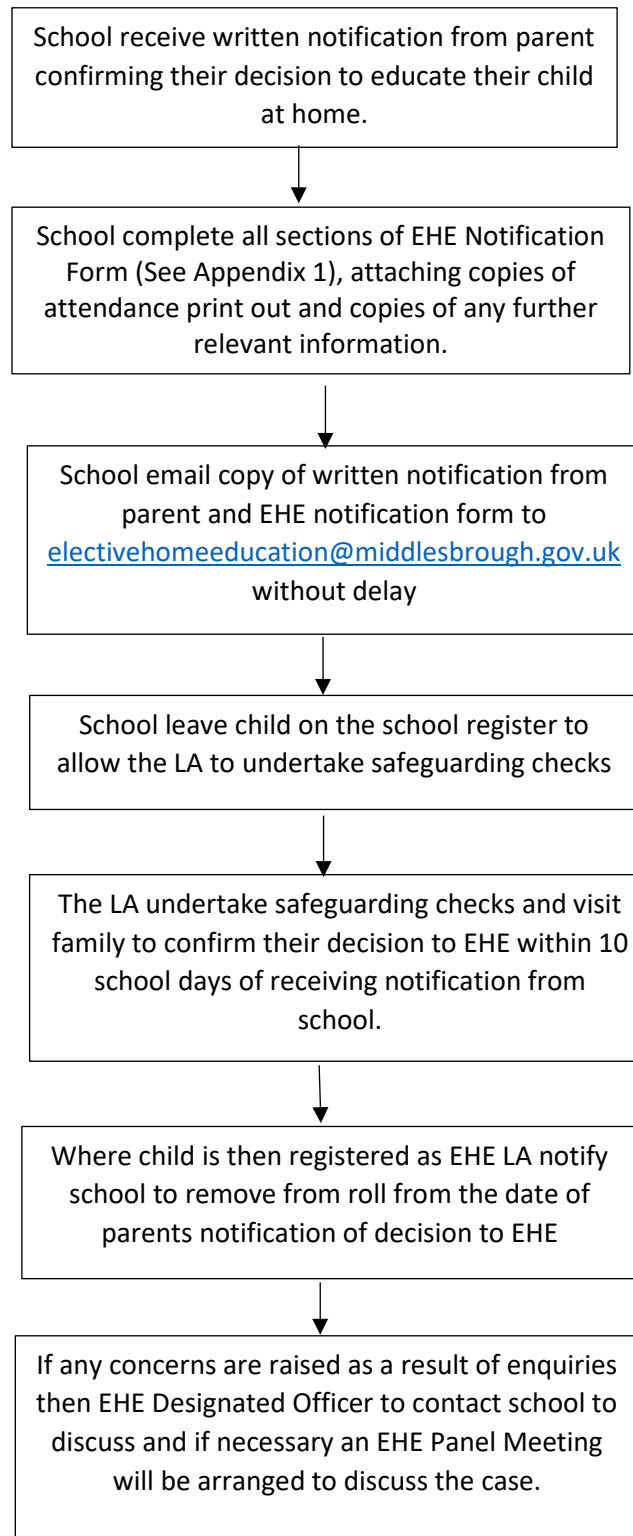
2.2 If a child attends a special school then his/her name cannot be removed from roll until the LA gives permission – confirming that the child’s special educational needs are being addressed.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 Regulation 8(2) states:

“a child who has under arrangements made by a local education authority become a registered pupil at a special school shall not be removed from the admission register of that school without the consent of that authority, or if that authority refuse to give consent, without a direction of the Secretary of State.”

2.3 Process for schools to follow following receipt of notification from parents

All schools have a duty to notify the Local Authority without delay when a child is to be removed from their school.



3. The Local Authority's Duty

3.1 Sections 437 – 443 of the Education Act 1996, dealing with school attendance orders, confers a duty on the LA if it appears that a child of compulsory school age is not receiving education suitable to age, ability, aptitude and special needs. It says that LAs can intervene if they have good reason to believe that parents are not providing a suitable education. This section states:

“If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education”.

3.2 The legal duty of LAs is concerned only with children who appear not to be receiving a suitable education. However, case law (Phillips v Brown (1980) QB 424/78) established that an LA might make enquiries of parents who are educating their children at home to establish that a suitable education is being provided and that, *“where an authority has a duty to take action in particular circumstances, it also has a duty to be alert in order to detect the possibility that those circumstances exist”*.

3.3 The LA has a duty under section 175(1) of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These powers allow the LA to insist on seeing children in order to enquire about their welfare where there are grounds for concern. It does not give the LA power to enter the home of, or otherwise see children for the purpose of monitoring the provision of elective home education.

3.4 The LA has a duty to make arrangements to identify children who are not registered at school. If it appears to the LA that a child is not receiving suitable education, the LA shall serve a formal notice on the parent under section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996.

3.5 The LA has a duty to secure suitable education and training places for 16 and 17 year olds to support them to participate in training or learning and therefore a member of staff will be in contact to check what they plan to do post year 11 where applicable.

Special Educational Needs

3.6 Parents of a child who has an Education Health and Care Plan can educate him/her at home. However, if the child is on the roll of a special school, the child's name may not be removed from the register of that school without the LA's consent. Parents wishing to begin home education with a child registered at a Special School must first seek the consent of the LA before withdrawing the child from school. Consent may not unreasonably be withheld.

3.7 Where a child has a Education Health and Care Plan when a parent begins home education, it remains the duty of the LA to ensure that the child's needs are met. Any existing EHCP must remain in place and it is the LA's statutory duty to undertake an annual review of Special Educational Needs. This will be carried out as a joint Annual Review by the LA SEND Case Officer and EHE Officer. This review will include assessing whether the EHCP is still appropriate, requires amendment or might cease to be maintained, depending on the child's current circumstances and the provision being made and will review the child's education at home arrangements to ensure that this meets the child's needs as set out in the EHCP. If parents' arrangements are suitable then the LA is relieved of its duty to arrange the provision specified in the EHCP.

3.8 Should it be necessary for the EHCP to remain in force, parents continue to have responsibility for the education provided. However, the LA has a legal duty to ensure that the child's needs are met.

3.9 For those children and young people who are SEN support and are EHE the LA SEND Quality Officer and EHE Officer will review the education package jointly as part of the young person's Initial and Annual EHE Review.

4. The Role of the Local Authority

4.1 This section sets out the arrangements the LA will make to ensure it carries out its statutory duties for children educated by parents. The LA recognises that both the Children Act 2004 and Education Act 1996 apply to all children, including those who are being home educated. Services and support for home educating families will therefore take these into account.

4.2 The LA will:

Maintain a register of pupils being educated at home. This is not a statutory duty and the numbers of children who are home educated fluctuate regularly. The register will enable the LA to coordinate the children being home educated in their area in order to offer support and advice in relation to a family's ongoing education at home arrangements. This is in order to assess whether or not it appears that a child is receiving a suitable education.

The school upon receipt of written notification from the parent/carer of their decision to educate at home must notify the LA. When the LA is notified of the intention to educate at home an Elective Home Education Officer will complete a safeguarding check followed by an initial home visit to the family if the family are not open or have not recently closed to social care. In cases where the family are open or recently closed to social care discussion will be held with social care to ensure that there would be no safeguarding risks to the child being educated at home. The initial home visit is completed in order to:

- Offer advice on the rights and responsibilities of the parents/carers and the LA
- Clarify whether there is any information that the parents/carers need
- Respond to any queries the family may have
- Discuss any issues or problems
- Discuss proposals to ensure the child is receiving an efficient, full time education suitable to their needs, age ability and aptitude.

Please note that where a family's first choice is to transfer schools then the child would not be registered as EHE as a stop gap to them securing a place at an alternative school and they would be expected to continue to attend their current school until an alternative school place is secured.

An Elective Home Education Officer/Education Adviser will then contact the family on an occasional basis, giving written notice in advance, to update our records and discuss any aspects the young person, parents or the Elective Home Education Officer wish to raise. These visits can take place at family's home address or at an alternative venue if you would prefer this. LAs have no automatic right to access a parent's home, however a parent/carers may wish to permit access to their home or offer an alternative venue for a meeting. At the initial meeting, the nature and frequency of future contact will be agreed.

Local authorities have general duties to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These duties allow local authorities to insist on seeing children in order to enquire about

their welfare where there are grounds for concern. The welfare and protection of all children, both those who attend school and those who are educated at home are of paramount concern. If any child protection or safeguarding concerns come to light in the course of engagement with children and families, or otherwise, these concerns will be immediately referred to the appropriate authorities using established protocols.

If it appears to the LA that a child is not receiving an appropriate education or any concerns are identified relating to the child's welfare, the Education Adviser will raise these concerns with the family and the Elective Home Education Designated Officer.

If it appears to the LA that a child is not receiving an appropriate education, after offering support and allowing parents a reasonable amount of time to address concerns, the LA will issue a School Attendance Order requiring the child to attend a named school.

The LA will provide details of the complaints procedure and deal with any complaints in a sensitive and timely manner.

5. School Attendance Orders (SAO)

5.1 If it is not possible to persuade the parent to make suitable arrangements for their child's education, the parent will be notified in writing by LA that they need to secure a school place within 15 school days or satisfy the LA that they are providing a suitable education. Failure to comply with this notice may result in an Education Welfare Service beginning the process of issuing a SAO.

5.2 Upon expiry of the notice, the LA will write to the parent referring them to the notice and informing them of the authority's intention to serve an SAO. The Education Welfare Service will inform the parent of schools that are suitable for the child to attend. The parent will be advised that they have 15 days in which to take action or the LA will proceed to instigate a SAO. The parent will be provided with an explanation of the law regarding the issuing of an SAO.

5.3 If the 15 days expire without the parent registering their child at a school, then the authority should issue an SAO. Prior to this, a school with a vacancy should be identified and a letter written to the governing body, informing them of the impending School Attendance Order. The Order should specify which school the child should attend and inform the parent that they have 15 days to comply, from the date of the letter. A failure of the parent complying would result in prosecution for the breach of Section 443 of the Education Act 1996.

6. Contacts:

If you require further information please contact:

Lynn Mitchell- Elective Home Education Designated Officer

Tel: 01642 201846

Email: electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

SEN Team

Tel: 01642 201831

Email: sen@middlesbrough.gov.uk

This document is to be reviewed August 2024

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION – SCHOOL NOTIFICATION FORM

| |
|---|
| <p>This referral form is for use by schools and other settings and should be e-mailed to –</p> <p>electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk</p> |
| Name of Child: |
| Address (including postcode): |
| Date of Birth: |
| Year Group: |
| Name of Parent/Carer(s) – include relationship to child, whether child lives with them and if they have parental responsibility: |
| Address (including postcode if different to child): |
| Telephone Number(s): |
| E-mail Address(s): |
| Language used at home: |
| Ethnicity: |
| Reason for Elective Home Education (if known): |
| Date of parental intention letter: |
| UPN: |
| Attendance %: |
| Number of exclusions registered: |
| <p>Details of SEN Support:</p> <p>Does the child have an EHCP? Y/N (If yes, please attach a copy)</p> <p>Is the child undergoing assessment for an EHCP? Y/N</p> <p>Has a SEND support plan been initiated? Y/N</p> |
| Date of last SEN review: |
| Does the child have any physical or mental health issues? Y/N (If yes, please provide a brief overview). |
| Details of involvement of other agencies/professionals? (complete applicable boxes providing name of professional) |

| Name of Agency/Professional | Date of Involvement | Description of involvement |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|
| EWO/Attendance Officer - | | |
| Education Psychologist - | | |
| SEN - | | |
| YOS - | | |
| Stronger Families/Early Help - | | |
| Social Care - | | |
| School Health - | | |
| CAMHS - | | |
| Other – e.g. VEMT, PREVENT, Neighbourhood Community Safety. | | |

Is the child known (currently open or previously open) to Social Care? (If so, please provide the name of the Social Worker). Is this/was this Child Protection or Child in Need?

Do you have any concerns either current or historical that would raise safeguarding issues if this child were not to be seen regularly at school?

Any other relevant information: *(Please include any relevant background information which may help enable the Local Authority to assess the suitability of the education being provided).*

Are there any risks to home visits to this family? **Y/N** (if yes please provide further details)

- Please attach the following when submitting this form:
- Copy of letter from parents
 - Registration certificate
 - Copy of EHCP if applicable
 - Details of most recent attainment/assessment levels

Referring School to complete:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Name and title of person completing form: | Signature: |
| School/Academy: | Phone number: |
| E-mail address: | Date: |
| Head Teacher's Name: | Head Teacher's Signature: |
| E-mail address: | Date: |

If you have any queries then please e-mail the Elective Home Education team at electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Appendix 2

Elective Home Education Guide for Parents

Elective Home Education- Guide for Parents

Introduction

Some parents believe that children can receive the best and broadest education by attending school, they believe that teachers have the skills to help children make the most of their abilities and interests, providing the opportunity for children to mix with others and develop their ability to build relationships and interact socially, allowing their children to achieve their potential. Other parents may feel that they are able to provide a similar or better education by educating their child at home.

In this country, parents have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their children receive a suitable education. Most parents choose to use schools but some prefer home education. It is the legal right of parents to educate their children at home if they so wish and Middlesbrough Council wishes to work cooperatively in close partnership with those parents who make this choice. The following guidance is intended to help parents who are considering home education, or have decided to home educate their child. We hope it will ensure that parents/carers who decide on education at home have considered and understand their rights and responsibilities and the duties of Middlesbrough Local Authority (LA).

Guidance on the Law

Parents/carers must ensure that a child receives a full-time education from the beginning of the school term after their 5th birthday. Most parents choose to send their child to school, but they do have the legal right to educate their child at home if they wish to do so.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that:

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full time education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs he/she may have either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

The word otherwise confirms a parents right to educate their child at home, this is known as Elective Home Education.

Whichever education path a parent/carer decides to take it is a good idea for them to talk to the child and take their wishes and feelings into consideration when reaching any decision.

An “efficient” or “suitable” education is not defined in any act however an efficient education has been broadly described as an education that achieves what it sets out to achieve and a suitable education is one that prepares a child for life within the community of which they are a member, rather than the way of life in the country as a whole, as long as it does not foreclose the child’s options in later years to adopt some other form of life if they wish to do so.

The law does not define the term “full-time education”, children in school usually receive 21-25 hours of teaching and learning each week for 38 weeks of the year but children who are educated at home are often taught in very different conditions and there is no direct comparison with school based timetables or educational arrangements. It is a parent’s responsibility to ensure that their children are given appropriate learning opportunities so that they may develop according to their age, ability and aptitude.

Do parents need permission to educate a child at home?

If a child already attends school parents/carers must notify the Head Teacher of the school in writing of their decision to educate their child at home. Although parents are not legally required to inform the LA, we suggest that they do so to ensure that the LA is aware of the change, you can do this using the contact details at the back of this guide. It is also recommended that parents also inform the LA of any significant changes to their circumstances e.g. a change of address. Upon receipt of written notification from parents/carers of their decision to home educate the child's name will be removed from the school roll following the initial checks and the school will have no further responsibility for the child's education.

If a child has never attended a school there is no action for a parent/carer to take prior to educating their child at home. However we would ask that you notify Middlesbrough LA so initial advice and support can be offered and this will enable the LA to carry out their duties and responsibilities in a helpful way.

If a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan and attends a special school the child's name may not be removed from the school's register without the consent of the LA. Parents/carers must demonstrate to the LA that they are making provision to meet the special educational needs of their child but this does not need to be offered in the same way as specified in any current Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) which is likely to be written on the basis of current provision being offered within an educational setting. Many children and young people with EHCPs have their needs met in mainstream settings. Any parents of children and young people with an EHCP who are considering elective home education are advised to speak to the SEN Team to discuss this matter before making a decision. The SEN Team can be contacted on Tel: 01642 201831 or email: sen@middlesbrough.gov.uk.

It is likely that a member of the SEN team would offer to accompany an officer from Access to Education team as part of the initial contact to discuss various issues relating to EHE and SEN with a parent as part of the process towards moving to elective home education. If during discussion, a parent confirms a wish to pursue elective home education for a child/young person who has an EHCP, the LA SEN team will review whether it is necessary to retain the EHCP and may issue an amended EHCP in draft to indicate the LA view as to the needs of the child/young person and the type of provision felt appropriate to meet those needs but also to acknowledge and confirm the parental right to electively home educate their child. Parents' existing rights in respect of EHCPs and decisions of the LA remain in place whether or not a parent pursues elective home education and more information can be provided upon request to the SEN team.

In addition, if the EHCP is to remain in place, the LA SEN team will make arrangements with Access to Education colleagues and parents to review the EHCP each year as usual perhaps during a joint home visit to make this more convenient for parents.

Things to consider before withdrawing your child from school

The decision to educate a child at home should not be taken lightly, nor should it be taken in haste. Before making the commitment to educate a child at home parents/carers should give consideration to the following:

- The reasons why they are considering education at home
- Any potential costs involved in providing education at home, consider things like the costs of books and resources, visits, equipment, internet access, social opportunities, tutors etc
- The benefits to a child of participating in social aspects of school life such as contact with other children, group activities and motivation for learning and interacting with other children of similar ages. Parents/carers will need to give consideration as to how their child's social development can be maintained and extended if being educated at home
- The impact on family life
- If parents/carers circumstances, i.e. work commitments, were to change how this could impact on the education at home arrangements of the child
- Whether any alternative options to education at home are available- the Choice Advice Service can assist with this- Tel: 01642 201872 or 07976553390
Email: choiceadvice@middlesbrough.gov.uk
 Or Education Welfare Service – Tel: 01642 201846 Email: electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

What happens when a parent/carer withdraws their child from school?

The school upon receipt of written notification from the parent/carer of their decision to educate at home must notify the LA. When the LA is notified of the intention to educate at home an Elective Home Education Officer will complete a safeguarding check followed by an initial home visit to the family if the family are not open or have not recently closed to social care. In cases where the family are open or recently closed to social care discussion will be held with social care to ensure that there would be no safeguarding risks to the child being educated at home. The initial home visit is completed in order to:

- Offer advice on the rights and responsibilities of the parents/carers and the LA
- Clarify whether there is any information that the parents/carers need
- Respond to any queries the family may have
- Discuss any issues or problems
- Discuss proposals to ensure the child is receiving an efficient, full time education suitable to their needs, age ability and aptitude.

Please note that where a family's first choice is to transfer schools then the child would not be registered as EHE as a stop gap to them securing a place at an alternative school and they would be expected to continue to attend their current school until an alternative school place is secured.

An Elective Home Education Officer will then contact the family on an occasional basis, giving written notice in advance, to update our records and discuss any aspects the young person, parents/carers or the Elective Home Education Officer wish to raise. These visits can take place at family's home address or at an alternative venue if you would prefer this. LAs have no automatic right to access a parent's home, however a parent/carers may wish to permit access to their home or offer an alternative venue for a meeting. At the initial meeting, the nature and frequency of future contact will be agreed.

Local authorities have general duties to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These duties allow local authorities to insist on seeing children in order to enquire about their welfare where there are grounds for concern. The welfare and protection of all children, both those who attend school and those who are educated at home are of paramount concern. If any

child protection or safeguarding concerns come to light in the course of engagement with children and families, or otherwise, these concerns will be immediately referred to the appropriate authorities using established protocols.

Do parents/carers need any formal qualifications to educate their child at home?

No, parents/carers do not have to be a qualified teacher or have set formal qualifications to educate their child at home. They will however need to have the necessary skills to be able to plan their child's education and to support their learning on an ongoing basis.

Do you have to follow the National Curriculum if you educate your child at home?

No, parents/carers do not have to follow the National Curriculum. When educating a child at home, what the child is taught and how this is taught is at the discretion of the parents/carers. The hours that are covered and how the day is organised are also a matter for the individual parents/carers. Home education does not have to follow a set plan of lessons or a timetable or follow school term dates. Not all home educators follow a timetable or lesson plans however some parents/carers find this beneficial in assisting them with their education provision.

What could happen if home education is not meeting my child's needs?

If there are concerns about the education provision for a child this will be explained to the parent/carer and the LA will work with the family to find a way forward. Parents are under no obligation to cooperate with requests for home visits and can instead share information about their child's education at home arrangements in writing. If following receipt of this information or if information is not provided an Elective Home Education Officer will attempt to make contact with the family. If it appears that a child is not receiving a suitable or efficient education then the School Attendance Order process will be commenced. This process can result in legal action which will enforce a parent to provide an efficient and suitable education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. Issuing a School Attendance Order however is always a last resort for the LA.

Is there any financial assistance available for parents/carers who decide to educate their child at home?

Parents/carers who elect to educate their child at home take on full financial responsibility for their child's education. Parents/carers are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and think carefully about the costs associated with educating children at home, especially if children may wish to take exams in the future. Parents/carers should consider how a change in their circumstances i.e. changing work commitments, could affect the education provision for their child.

Parents/carers may choose to employ other people to educate their child however the parents/carers themselves will continue to be responsible for the education provided. The parents/carers will also be responsible for ensuring that those who they engage to provide their child's education are suitable to have access to children. The LA do not hold a list of recommended or DBS checked tutors and do not provide any financial assistance towards the cost of home education or home tutors.

What if I change my mind about education at home?

The child's name is removed from the school register when the school receives written notification from a parent/carer of their decision to home educate. At this point the school place can be given to another child, a school cannot keep a place open for your child to return to if you change your mind however you can apply for a school place at any time and places will be allocated if the chosen school has a place available in the relevant year group. Contact the Choice Adviser, for information about applying for a school place and assistance with completing the necessary application forms.

Choice Advice Service- Tel: 01642 201872 or 07976553390, Email:
choiceadvice@middlesbrough.gov.uk

or Education Welfare Service – Tel: 01642 201846, Email:
electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

My child is unable to attend school due to a medical condition

If a child is unable to attend school due to a medical condition or due to anxieties relating to school attendance, please speak to the Choice Advice Service for advice and guidance on the available options.

Choice Advice Service- Tel: 01642 201872 or 07976553390, Email:
choiceadvice@middlesbrough.gov.uk

or Education Welfare Service – Tel: 01642 201846, Email:
electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Can my child take exams whilst being educated at home?

Children who are home educated do not have to undertake any public examinations. It is important for parents/carers to ensure that children are making progress whilst being educated at home, it is advisable that parents/carers have a systematic approach to monitoring this progress whether this be through tests or other means, this can help parents/carers to identify whether a child is making progress at a pace appropriate to their ability and can help to identify gaps in their knowledge and understanding.

Key Stage 1 and 2 National assessments and mark schemes can be downloaded from
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/key-stage-2-tests-past-papers>

Information about Key Stage 3 and 4 assessments can be found online
<https://www.gov.uk/education/secondary-curriculum-key-stage-3-and-key-stage-4-gcses>

It is possible for children who are educated at home to take exams as private (external) candidates. If your child wishes to do this you will need to find a registered centre for the exams; these include local schools and colleges. You will need to factor in the cost of the awarding body (examination boards) fees and the cost of the examination centre invigilation of the exams chosen. Unfortunately there is no funding available from the LA towards the costs of sitting exams for children who are educated at home.

Parents/carers should be aware that not all awarding bodies offer qualifications that are suitable for private candidates due to the supervised coursework and controlled assessment elements of some examinations, this can be a potential barrier to sitting exams particularly for those who decide to home educate late in the academic year when examinations are due to be taken or mid-way through a course of study. It is therefore advisable for parents/carers to contact the individual awarding bodies to discuss the arrangements at the earliest opportunity. Contact details for the relevant awarding bodies can be found below:

AQA

Telephone: 0800 197 7162

Email: eos@aqa.org.uk

OCR

General qualifications, including GCSE and GCE:

Telephone: 01223 553998

Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Vocational qualifications

Including Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals and NVQs:

Telephone: 02476 851509

Email: vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Edexcel

Use the online form to find the answers to your questions, or information on how to get in touch with the learner support team. This can be accessed from:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-for-you/students/contact-us.html>

WJEC

Telephone: 029 2026 5000

Email: info@wjec.co.uk

Cambridge

Telephone: 01223 553554

Email: Submit an online enquiry form at https://ask.cie.org.uk/hc/en-gb/requests/new?ticket_form_id=53542&adt=0

On the awarding body websites you will find not only the syllabus and a wide range of supporting materials for your chosen qualifications, but also examples of the forms you will need to fill in to register for these. It is important to note that you have to fill in these forms yourself as your chosen examination centre does not do this for you.

An alternative approach is to investigate the support available from distance learning providers such as:

The National Extension College: <https://www.nec.ac.uk/content/home-educators> or

Oxford Home Schooling: <http://www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk/>.

These organisations offer private tuition alongside a suite of courses such as IGCSE which provide preparation for the next stage in education without the controlled assessments. Parents may find that this type of qualification better serves the needs of home schooling students than traditional GCSE examinations, whilst still allowing students to progress to A Level, apply for vocational courses, or enter the wider world of work. Although such agencies also provide support to find an

examination centre and they facilitate the booking procedure, parents/carers are still responsible for facilitating the final examination at their chosen centre. Parents/carers should be aware that these fees can add up to several hundred pounds per examination, particularly if you do not submit a registration form for your chosen qualification in good time and late fees are applied.

Parents/carers may also wish to contact local colleges to enquire as to whether they are willing to allow home educated children to take exams as private candidates and whether there is any funding available for particular courses of study.

How does compulsory school age affect children who are educated at home?

The compulsory age for a child to start full time education in the UK is at the beginning of the school term after the child's fifth birthday. All children are required to stay in learning or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18 years old.

The school leaving date for any young person whether attending school or being educated at home is the last Friday in June of Year 11.

The young person then must do one of the following until they are 18:

- Stay in full time education i.e. school, college or home education
- Work based learning such as an apprenticeship or traineeship
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

All local authorities have a statutory duty to secure suitable education and training places for 16 and 17 year olds to support them to participate in training or learning. If you require any advice or guidance on the next steps for your child please contact Middlesbrough Council's Work Readiness Team on Tel: 01642 513162. Email: workreadinessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Where can parents/carers obtain further information about education at home or alternative options?

Parents/carers can consider home education for many different reasons, to obtain further information parents/carers can speak to an Elective Home Education Officer. An officer will happily discuss any queries or concerns a parent/carer may have either by telephone or email or they can arrange to visit the family to discuss their situation either in the family home or at an alternative location. Tel: 01642 201846

Email: electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

If parents/carers are considering educating their child at home as a result of a disagreement with a school we recommend that parents/carers speak to the Choice Advice Service before making the decision to withdraw their child from school and educate their child at home as the Choice Adviser can provide an independent and impartial advocacy service to parents and carers to address any concerns that they may have. Choice Advice Service- Tel: 01642 201872 or 07976553390

Email: choiceadvice@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Listed below are some further organisations which provide advice for parents/carers.

Education Otherwise

A UK-based membership organisation that provides support and information for families whose children are being educated outside of school.

Education Otherwise

PO Box 3761

Swindon

SN2 9GT

Telephone 0845 478 6345

www.educationotherwise.org

Home Education Advisory Service (HEAS)

A national home education charity based in the United Kingdom, dedicated to the provision of advice and practical support for families who wish to educate their children at home in preference to sending them to school.

Home Education Advisory Service

PO Box 98

Welwyn Garden City

Hertfordshire

AL8 6AN

Telephone 01707 371854

www.heas.org.uk

Home Education in the UK

This website offers information and website links for home educators.

www.home-education.org.uk

Educational Freedom

This website provides information and links for home educators in the UK.

www.EducationalFreedom.org.uk

Darlington, Durham and Teesside Home Education Group

www.facebook.com/groups/789012721200196/

Educational Websites

The Local Authority is not responsible for the content of the websites listed in this guide and does not endorse third party websites. The websites listed below have been recommended by parents/carers who home educate, some websites may incur a cost.

BBC Education provides a wide range of useful information: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

Information on the countries of the world, with historical, geographical and political information, maps, opportunities to join online discussions: www.countryreports.org

A subscription site providing a range of literacy and numeracy worksheets based on themes: www.edhelper.com

Other subscription based sites:

Oxford Home Schooling – www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk

Interhigh – www.interhigh.co.uk

Ed Place – www.edplace.com

Khan Academy – www.khanacademy.org

Smart ed Uk – www.smartacademics.co.uk (based in Eston – can access exams here as an external candidate and also offer tutoring).

Absolute Maths – www.absolutemaths.co.uk

Net School – www.net-school.co.uk

Catherine Mooney (English) – www.catherinemooneytutoring.co.uk

IXL – www.ixl.com/uk

A range of fun and practical project-based activities:

www.educationguardian.co.uk/primaryresources

GCSE revision guides: www.gcse.com

Online correspondence courses with advice: www.learndirect.co.uk

A science website: www.planet-science.com

A student Support Centre offers personalised learning programmes for pupils aged 4-17 in English and Maths www.student-support.co.uk

Primary phase activities, plus book reviews: www.teachingideas.co.uk

Online maths support and resources, including worksheets, animated and spoken guides and tests: www.10ticks.co.uk/homelearning

Twinkl- Education resource website with printable worksheets and resources www.twinkl.co.uk/

Other websites for resources include:

Science:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/resources/curated-collections/secondary-and-level-science-0>

<https://isaacphysics.org/>

Maths:

<https://nrich.maths.org/12524>

<https://mathskitchen.com/topics>

<https://mathigon.org/>

<https://corbettmaths.com/contents/>

www.conquermaths.com

English:

<https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Age+Group=GCSE&Subject=English+Language>
(SENECA also provide learning in other subject areas)

<https://www.pobble365.com/>

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/publications/>

Useful Contacts

Elective Home Education Designated Officer

Tel: 01642 201846

Email: electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Choice Advice Service

Choice Advice Service- Tel: 01642 201872 or 07976553390

Email: choiceadvice@middlesbrough.gov.uk

SEN Team

Tel: 01642 201831

Email: sen@middlesbrough.gov.uk

SENDIASS Special Education Needs and Disabilities Information Advice Support Service

Tel: 01642 310846

Email: southteessendiass@barnardos.org.uk

Website: www.barnardosendiass.org.uk/south-tees-sendiass

School Admissions Team- Middlesbrough Council

Tel: 01642 201892

Email: schooladmissions@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Work Readiness Team- Middlesbrough Council

Tel: 01642 513162

Email: workreadinessteam@middlesbrough.gov.uk

If you have any comments regarding the information contained within this guide, or have any queries relating to home education in Middlesbrough, please contact an Elective Home

Education Designated Officer tel: 01642 201846 or email:

electivehomeeducation@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all the third party information contained in this guide is correct we have reproduced this in good faith and do not guarantee its accuracy. The Local Authority is not responsible for the content of the websites listed in this guide and does not endorse third party websites.

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