 Bradford SENDIASS

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**Elective Home Education.**

Education of children is compulsory but school attendance is not. Parents are entitled to educate their children at home, provided it is a “suitable” education”. This is known as Elective Home Education.

**Key points about Elective Home Education.**

“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full time education suitable –

1. to his age, ability and aptitude
2. to any special educational needs he may have,

either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.”

(Section 7 EA 1996)

Parents are under a duty to provide “suitable” education, which must be suitable for that particular child. A parent can therefore choose to provide that suitable education at home.

* Parents do not need to be qualified teachers.
* Parents do not need to work to a particular timetable or to fixed hours, days or times.
* Parents do not need to teach the National Curriculum and do not need to mark work or formally assess their child’s progress or set development objectives.
* The Local Authority has no duty to provide financial support to the parents of Elective Home Educated children.
* The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that a suitable education is being provided.

**Elective Home Education for children with SEN.**

Parents sometimes choose to educate their child at home, especially if they feel that a child’s SEN or disability have not been well supported at school. It is important that in these circumstances, parents give written notice to the Headteacher of the child’s school to ensure that their name is removed from the school’s admission register.

If a parent wishes to request that the LA carry out an assessment of their child’s SEN, then the fact that they are being home educated will not affect their right to make a request for an EHC needs assessment.

**Child with a Statement or an EHC plan**

When a child has an EHC plan, their parent can still remove the child’s name from the admissions register of a school by giving written notice that they wish to home educate the child.

If a child is attending a special school the LA must give permission for the child’s name to be removed from the admissions register, their EHC plan should also be amended by the LA to reflect the fact that the child is educated at home.

An important point for parents to bear in mind is that the LA will no longer have a duty to secure the special educational provision. Parents would need to be prepared to deliver the special educational provision that the child requires.

The LA has a duty to satisfy itself that the special educational provision being made by the parent is suitable. If the LA considers that they are not, it will be open to them to name a school or college within the EHC plan. Or the LA can choose to offer to make a financial contribution towards the cost of making that special educational provision.

The LA remains under a duty to maintain the EHC plan and to carry out a review of it on at least an annual basis.

**Home Tuition for children with medical or other needs.**

If education in a school is appropriate for a child, and the child can generally attend school, but that child is unable to attend for a period of time due to medical needs or illness, then the LA will have a general duty to provide a suitable, full time education for that child. This will very often be home tuition. This would also apply where a child has mental health issues and is refusing to attend school.

Further information can be found on Bradford Council’s website: ElectiveHEducation@bradford.gov.uk. Tel: The Elective Home Education Team on 01274 439340, mail to:ElectiveHEducation@bradford.gov.uk

For further information and advice, contact Barnardo’s SENDIASS:

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Or visit our website for more useful information:

[www.barnardos.org.uk/bradfordsendiass](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/bradfordsendiass)