

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Education Participation and Skills



Elective Home Education

The Elective Home Education support service is delivered by the ACE Multi Academy Trust who hold the register of children who are EHE and who monitor the curriculum and delivery of home education working with families. There is no requirement for families to register but it is encouraged that families take up the offer of support from the EHE service. The contract with ACE is currently under review.

In addition Electively Home Educated pupils are monitored through a LA register and an '**EHE Red List**' of children where it appears that no suitable education is taking place. This information is reported to the Local Authority by ACE. Appropriate action is then taken in relation to these children by the Inclusion, Attendance and Welfare Service. 53 young people on the register have unsatisfactory education when reviewed by the service. The Elective Home Education Policy & Register is in place to guide this work and legal action is being taken in relation to each of the 53 cases.

Elective Home Education Data

*Numbers of students registered as EHE at some point during the academic year:

Academic Year	Number of registered EHE students*	% of total school population
2013/14	159	0.44
2014/15	184	0.53
2015/16	223	0.62
2016/17	279	0.76
2017/18	380	1.03

Academic Year	% boys	% girls
2013/14	52%	48%
2014/15	49%	51%
2015/16	54%	46%
2016/17	50%	50%
2017/18	50%	50%

Academic Year	Number with statement / EHCP	% of EHE population
2013/14	12	7%
2014/15	16	8%
2015/16	15	6%
2016/17	14	5%
2017/18	25	6%

The figures below show the information for EHE students on 17/01/19 (school census day).

Number of EHE pupils registered	279
Number of EHE pupils not registered	1 (This figure includes children picked up by ONE team as EHE but not yet of school age)
Number of girls	131 (47%)
Number of boys	148 (53%)
Number of EHE registered eligible for FSM	14 (5%)
Number with EHCP	16 (6%)
Number who previously had SEN support	75 (26%)
Number who are Children in Need	10 (3%)
Of which are on a Child Protection Plan	0

Registered EHE Pupils by Year Group

0	1
1	9
2	11
3	15
4	11
5	16
6	16
7	27
8	25
9	32
10	43
11	73

Registered Pupils by Ethnicity	
Ethnicity	Registered
OOEG - Other Ethnic Group	3
Not Known	48
MOTH - Any Oth Mixed b'ground	3
WWEU - White Western Euro'n	0
WTUR - Turkish/Turkish Cypriot	0
MWBA - White and Black African	1
APKN - Pakistani	0
MWBC - White & Black Caribbean	0
CHKC - Hong Kong Chinese	0
NOBT - Info not yet obtained	6
WEEU - White Eastern Euro'n	2
WOTW - White Other	3

WBRI - White British	175
REFU - Refused	1
WENG - White English	33
WIRI - White Irish	0
WROO - Other Gypsy/Roma	0
WROM - Gypsy/Roma	3
MWAS - White and Asian	1

Since Plymouth CC started collating reason in April 2017 here is a list of reasons for EHE

Total number of EHE referral since April 2017 = 522

Reason for EHE	All registered students
Dissatisfaction with the school environment	80
Lifestyle/Philosophical/Culture*	6
Attendance/Prosecution	1
Medical - Child	79
Medical - Parent	1
School refuser/phobic	2
Bullying	36
Emotional behavioural difficulties	10
Near Exclusion	6
Other	200
Dissatisfaction with SEN provision	4
Relationship issues	0
Not preferred school	22
No reason recorded	74
Not known (at time of recording on ONE)	0
Religious Beliefs	1

* Comparative data from Devon County Council identifies that 19.3% of home educating families made the decision to home educate based on philosophical/lifestyle/cultural reasons compared with Plymouth's 2.15%. Devon is a large geographical area and as such has many rural parts, anecdotally

and based on feedback from the regional home education forum members; it is often the case that in rural areas families make a decision to home educate based on philosophical/lifestyle reasons.

What does the current academic year data tell us?

The number of children home educated significantly increased during 2017/18 and continues to rise in 2018/19. The number of home educated children in Plymouth currently stands at (14th June 2019). Since September 2018, 256 children have been registered for elective home education. There have been 38 applications for children to return from elective home education to school across the same period.

Of the 256 children whose parents have elected for them to be home educated, 184 are secondary school aged and 72 are primary school aged. 70 were in years 10 and 11 with 114 in years 7, 8 & 9.

This reflects the concern nationally that schools might be “encouraging” families to remove their children and educate them at home. There is some evidence that a small number of schools may be encouraging parents to educate at home with three Plymouth schools having between 17 and 43 students leave to be educated at home educated.

An EWO will conduct an initial home visit once a referral has been made to the IAWS regarding a parents intention to home educate. If the EWO in carrying out their duty receives information from the parents that the school acted illegally, the Headteacher will be challenged by the IAWS manager and advised to put the child(ren) back on roll.

There are currently 19 young people who are educated at home and have identified SEND with an EHCP. This number has increased in recent years and this reflects the national trend. More work needs to be carried out so that the Local Authority can fully understand the reasons why an increasing number of families are choosing to educate their child at home. There is a need to ensure that families are making a positive choice to educate at home, supported around the options and have access to the information needed to make this successful for the child. There is information available on the council website and the [SEND Local Offer](#) to support families.

The most common reasons for parents electing to home educate in 2018/19 are:

- Medical/Health reasons
- Short Term/waiting for school place
- Concerns/issues with current school
- Refused to complete paperwork
- Bullying

Links between persistent absence and bullying

The Inclusion Attendance and Welfare Service conducted a deep dive analysis of 415 open referrals to see if there is a link between persistent absence and bullying. Of these 21 (5%) mentioned bullying as either part of the reason or the main reason for the pupil’s persistent absence from school.

If a case is referred to an Education Welfare Officer and bullying is a feature of the case they will work with the family and the school to try and resolve the issue in order to support the child’s improved attendance.

The Department for Education Consultation

The Department for Education is conducting a consultation in relation to establishing a local authority registration system for children who do not attend state-funded or registered independent schools. This consultation is a follow-up to the consultation and call for evidence on elective home education held by the Department for Education in 2018. It seeks views on proposed legislation to establish a register maintained by local authorities of children not attending mainstream schools, together with associated duties on parents and the proprietors of certain educational settings. It also consults on proposed legislation to establish a duty to support parents who educate children at home and seek support from their local authority in doing so.

At present there is no legislative framework for such a registration system and although it is incumbent on local authorities to know the children in their area who are not receiving a suitable education; it is not incumbent on families to tell the local authority where their child is being educated or to allow the local authority to monitor the suitability of the education being provided.

Home Education (Duty of Local Authorities) Bill

The Home Education Bill will have its 3rd reading at the House of Lords on 24th July 2019. The Bill makes provision for local authorities to monitor the educational, physical and emotional development of children receiving elective home education.

Plan for continued improvement:

- Named EWO for EHE in order to provide impartial advice and support engagement with the family. The EWO will ask a series of questions to establish the reasons for home education and identify any areas of concern so that the most appropriate course of action can be taken.
- Contract with ACE School Plymouth will cease on 31st August 2019. The monitoring and oversight of home education will come back in house to Plymouth City Council who will ensure consistency and compliance with local policy arrangements.
- ACE Schools Plymouth and Plymouth City Council are working together to co-produce a communications plan in order to inform families of the new arrangements.
- New DfE guidance for Elective Home Education (April 2019) has been used to inform the development and content of Plymouth's draft Elective Home Education Policy, which will go 'live' on 1st September 2019.
- There will be a home education policy consultation and development session with home educating families 9th July 2019. The session will provide an opportunity for parents to be part of the co-development of local arrangements in the City in relation to home education. The session will also provide information about services that families can access as a number of speakers are coming to the event. Every relevant parent has been contacted in relation to this and a link provided to the draft home education policy.
- New Section 19 Policy (children with medical needs) will be launched at the SENCo Briefing in June 2019, this will provide a clear framework for schools in relation to supporting children with medical needs to access as much education as their health needs allow.
- Best practice guidance in relation to supporting pupils with medical needs in schools is currently being developed and will be linked to both the Graduated Approach to Inclusion and work relating to social, emotional and mental health in schools. This will go 'live' in the autumn term 2019.
- Data is being collated in relation to home education and secondary schools have agreed to share all of their data in relation to a number of priority areas including home education. We are working with schools to try and develop local arrangements to facilitate restorative work with schools/families in order to prevent home education.

- Undertake a review of the children for whom the reason given for EHE is 'other' in order to better understand the individual reasons and the themes arising.
- The Plymouth Graduated Approach to Inclusion is currently being developed to ensure all pupils at risk of missing out on education are identified early by schools and supported appropriately.
- The INCAS model (intervention, challenge and support) developed by the Education Participation and Skills Department is now being implemented and data in relation to home education and other areas of concern such as exclusion and off-rolling is being used to inform the dialogue between PCC and schools.
- Plymouth Leadership Trust have agreed to share all school level data in relation to off-rolling, home education, exclusions and children missing education in order to understand the scale of the problem in order to begin a conversation about how to tackle the issues.
- An annual off-rolling report will be developed in order to ensure that we have oversight of emerging trends and issues in schools and can drive conversations with schools and discharge our responsibilities, acting as a champion for children and young people.
- CAPITA Team are responding to a business proposal which will enable the department to use the 'live' school data available in order to identify areas of concern and use data to challenge schools on poor performance in real time and offer support, advice and guidance.
- The Inclusion and Attendance Strategy is currently being developed, the ultimate goal of the strategy is to improve outcomes for children and young people by reducing the number of children being excluded, home educated, off-rolled and missing education – ensuring that they are appropriately supporting to remain in school.