London Borough of Havering Elective Home Education Policy 2026/2027

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Policy Version Control

Academic Year	Amendment / Policy Changes	Section(s) Updated
2024/2025	Full policy review undertaken. Updated in line with current and emerging legislation and statutory guidance.	All
2025/2026	Safeguarding arrangements strengthened, including processes for children subject to Child in Need and Child Protection Plans.	All
2026/2027	**Updated to reflect the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Elective Home Education Guidance (2024**	**All**

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This policy sets out the London Borough of Havering's arrangements for fulfilling its statutory duties in relation to Elective Home Education (EHE). It outlines how the Local Authority will identify, monitor and support children who are educated at home, while ensuring that suitable education is being provided and that children remain visible within safeguarding systems.

The policy establishes a clear framework for parents, schools, Local Authority services and partner agencies to work together to promote the educational welfare, safety and wellbeing of children who are Electively Home Educated, in accordance with relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

1.2 Aims

This policy aims to:

- Support parents who choose to educate their children at home.
- Ensure children receiving Elective Home Education are provided with a suitable full-time education appropriate to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs.
- Promote the safeguarding and welfare of children educated at home.
- Facilitate effective communication and partnership working between parents, schools, the Local Authority and partner agencies.
- Clarify the respective responsibilities of parents, schools, the Local Authority and other agencies in relation to Elective Home Education.
- Ensure the Local Authority fulfils its statutory duties relating to children not receiving suitable education.

- Support the early identification of children who may be at risk of missing education
- Prevent the inappropriate use of Elective Home Education, including situations where it may be used to avoid attendance, exclusion or other statutory processes.
- Promote effective multi-agency working to support vulnerable children and families.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

1.3 Scope

This policy applies to:

- The London Borough of Havering and its services
- Parents and carers who elect to educate their children at home
- Maintained schools
- Academies and free schools
- Independent schools
- Alternative Provision settings
- Special schools
- Partner agencies working with children, young people and families

1.4 Statutory Framework

This policy should be read alongside the following legislation and statutory guidance.

Primary Legislation

- Education Act 1996 (Sections 7, 8, 13A, 14, 19, 436A, 437 and 444)
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents
- Education Act 2002 (Section 175)
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/32/contents
- Children Act 1989
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents
- Children Act 2004
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents
- Children and Families Act 2014
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents
- Data Protection Act 2018
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
  www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2016/679/contents
- Equality Act 2010
  www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

Statutory Guidance

- Elective Home Education: Guidance for Local Authorities (DfE,2019)
  www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education
- Elective Home Education: Guidance for Parents (DfE, 2019)
  www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (Current Version)
  www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (Current Version)
  www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2
- Children Missing Education Statutory Guidance (DfE, Current Version)
  www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education

2. Principles

The London Borough of Havering will:

- Recognise and respect the right of parents to choose Elective Home Education for their child.
- Acknowledge that parents have a legal responsibility to secure a suitable education appropriate to their child's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs.
- Place the welfare, safety and best interests of children and young people at the centre of all decision-

making.

- Promote positive and constructive relationships with families who elect to home educate.
- Fulfil its statutory duties to identify children who may not be receiving a suitable education.
- Ensure safeguarding considerations remain integral to all Elective Home Education activity.
- Work collaboratively with schools, families and partner agencies to support children's educational and welfare needs.
- Promote early identification and support where concerns arise regarding a child's education, welfare or safety.
- Take appropriate action where it appears that a child is not receiving a suitable education, in accordance with statutory guidance and legislation.
- Ensure information is shared lawfully, proportionately and in accordance with data protection requirements.
- Challenge any practice that may result in inappropriate or coerced Elective Home Education, including unlawful off-rolling.
- Promote inclusion, equality of opportunity and positive outcomes for all children and young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

3. Definition of Elective Home Education (EHE)

Elective Home Education (EHE) is where parents choose to provide their child's education outside of a school setting.

Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents must ensure their child receives an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs, either through regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Parents who choose EHE assume full responsibility for planning, delivering and funding their child's education, including any examination costs and educational resources.

The Local Authority does not routinely monitor home education but has a statutory duty to make enquiries where it appears that a child may not be receiving a suitable education, and to take appropriate action where necessary.

Children who are electively home educated remain entitled to safeguarding support and services where required.

4. Responsibilities

Agency	Key Responsibility
Parents / Carers	Ensure their child receives a suitable full-time education and engage with Local Authority enquiries where required.
Schools	Schools should make reasonable efforts to discuss any request for Elective Home Education with parents before a pupil is removed from roll. This discussion should ensure the decision is informed, voluntary and in the child's best interests, with consideration given to children who are vulnerable, have SEND, an EHCP, attendance difficulties or safeguarding concerns Support informed parental decisions and comply with statutory notification requirements. **Inform the Local Authority before removing a pupil from school roll by completing the following: http://www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/EHE**
Local Authority	Maintain EHE records, make enquiries where appropriate and fulfil statutory duties regarding suitable education.
Safeguarding Partners	Share information and provide multi-agency safeguarding support where concerns arise.

5. Risks Associated with Elective Home Education (EHE)

While many children thrive in Elective Home Education and receive a suitable education tailored to their individual needs, EHE may present risks where educational provision, safeguarding arrangements or welfare needs are not adequately met.

Potential risks include:

- Unsuitable education, resulting in gaps in learning, limited progress or poor preparation for adulthood.
- Reduced visibility of children, making it more difficult for agencies to identify emerging welfare or safeguarding concerns.
- Social isolation, with fewer opportunities to interact with peers and participate in wider community activities.
- Unmet Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), where appropriate support, interventions or specialist provision are not in place.
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing concerns, which may go unidentified or unsupported.
- Barriers to accessing qualifications and examination opportunities.
- Inappropriate or coerced EHE, where parents feel pressured to withdraw a child from school due to attendance concerns, behaviour, SEND needs, exclusion risk or unresolved disputes with the school.
- Children becoming missing from education, where EHE arrangements break down or education is no longer taking place.

The Local Authority will work collaboratively with families, schools and partner agencies to identify and respond to any concerns regarding a child's education, welfare or safety, while respecting parents' right to educate their child at home.

6. Safeguarding Arrangements

The welfare of children and young people is paramount. Elective Home Education does not reduce or remove safeguarding responsibilities.
Children who are electively home educated may have less regular contact with education professionals. The Local Authority will therefore continue to work with families and partner agencies to promote children's welfare, wellbeing and access to appropriate support.

Where concerns relating to a child's safety, welfare or wellbeing are identified, all agencies will act in accordance with local safeguarding procedures and relevant statutory guidance. Elective Home Education does not affect the responsibilities of Children's Social Care, Health Services, Youth Justice Services or other agencies involved with the child and family.

Children and young people who are receiving statutory support or intervention will continue to receive appropriate oversight and support. This includes children who are:

- Subject to a Child Protection Plan
- Subject to a Child in Need Plan
- Looked After by a Local Authority
- Subject to Youth Justice involvement
- Have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

7. Elective Home Education (EHE) Process

Stage	Parent/Carer	School	Local Authority
Request for EHE	Parent/carer notifies the school in writing of their intention to electively home educate.	Acknowledge the request and offer a discussion with the parent. The school should advise the parent to contact ehe@havering.gov.uk immediately to obtain information, advice and guidance before a final decision is made.	N/A
Consideration of the Child's Individual Circumstance	Engage with the school and relevant professionals to discuss support available.	Review the child's individual circumstances, including any social care involvement (CIN /CP/Looked After) and EHCP status. The school must notify ehe@havering.gov.uk and appropriate professionals and **retain the pupil on roll** until all necessary discussions, reviews and statutory requirements have been completed.	Provide advice and liaise with Children's Social Care, SEND, Virtual School and partner agencies as required.
Special School and EHCP Consideration	Discuss arrangements with the Local Authority Sen@havering.gov.uk	For pupils with an EHCP notify the SEND Team via Sen@havering.gov.uk For pupils attending a maintained special school, **do not remove** the child from roll until Local Authority consent has been received.	The SEND Team maintain responsibility for the EHCP.
Notification and Deregistration	Confirm intention in writing to your child's school that you wish to Electively Home Educate.	Submit the EHE referral form http://www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/EHE along with the parents written notification of their intention to EHE. Complete the Removal of pupil from school register | School support | London Borough of Havering	Register the child as Electively Home Educated and review information received.
Initial Contact	Provide information about the education being provided to your child.	N/A	Contact the family, provide guidance and assess whether suitable full-time education is being provided, taking account of the child's age, ability, aptitude and any SEND.
Monitoring and Support	Continue to provide suitable education and engage with the Local Authority.	N/A	Provide advice, guidance and ongoing review of education.
If Suitable Education Is Not Evident	Provide further information about the home education and any steps being taken to meet the child's educational needs.	N/A	Make further enquiries, offer advice and support and provide parents with an opportunity to demonstrate that suitable education is being provided. If evidence of

			full time, suitable education is not provided refer case to Children Missing Education.
School Attendance Order (SAO)	Work with the Local Authority to secure suitable education for your child.	N/A	Where the Local Authority is not satisfied that suitable education is being provided, the School Attendance Order process may be initiated.
Return to School	Request a school place if you decide that home education is no longer the preferred option via Start your application | In-year admissions process | London Borough of Havering	Support admission or reintegration arrangements where required.	Support school admission arrangements and close to EHE or CME once child is on school roll.

8. Assessing Whether Education Is Suitable

The Local Authority has a legal duty to satisfy itself that every child of compulsory school age is receiving a suitable education.

To help us understand the education being provided, parents may be asked to share information such as:

- An overview of their approach to home education.
- Learning plans, activities or programmes being followed.
- Examples of the child's work.
- Information about the child's progress and development.
- Discussions with the Elective Home Education Officer.

Home education does not need to follow the National Curriculum or replicate school-based learning. However, it should be suitable to the child's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs, and support their ongoing progress and development.
Where a child is subject to a Child in Need Plan or Child Protection Plan, a home visit will usually be required as part of the initial assessment to help ensure the child's welfare and educational needs are being met.

9. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Parents of children with SEND have the same right to electively home educate as other parents, subject to specific legal requirements.

Where a child attends a maintained special school under arrangements made by the Local Authority, the child cannot be removed from the school roll without the Local Authority's written consent.
Where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) parents remain responsible for providing a suitable education if they choose Elective Home Education.

Where a child has an EHCP, the Local Authority will continue to review and maintain the EHCP and work with parents to ensure the home education provided is suitable for the child's needs.

10. If Suitable Education Is Not Evident

The Local Authority will always aim to work positively with parents where there are concerns about the education being provided. Where there is not enough evidence that a child is receiving a suitable education, the Local Authority may:

- Make informal enquiries and discuss concerns with parents.
- Request further information about the educational provision being made.
- Offer advice, guidance and support.
- Issue a notice under Section 437 of the Education Act 1996 where appropriate.
- Consider any information or evidence provided by parents.
- Decide whether suitable education is being provided.
- Begin the School Attendance Order process where legal requirements are met.

The Local Authority will seek to resolve concerns through discussion and cooperation wherever possible before considering formal action.

11. Information Sharing and Data Protection

The Local Authority may share information with relevant agencies where this is necessary to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Fulfil its legal duties relating to Elective Home Education.
- Determine whether a child is receiving a suitable education.
- Support children and families who may be vulnerable or require additional assistance.

Any information shared will be lawful, necessary, proportionate and in accordance with:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Children Act 2004
- Local safeguarding partnership procedures

12. School Attendance Order Process

If the Local Authority is not satisfied that a child is receiving a suitable education, the following process may be followed:

1. Discussion and engagement with parents
2. Request for information about the education being provided
3. Issue of a Section 437(1) Notice where appropriate
4. Consideration of any information or evidence provided by parents
5. A decision on whether suitable education is being provided
6. Issue of a School Attendance Order if statutory requirements are met
7. Ongoing monitoring and, where necessary, further action in accordance with legislation

The Local Authority will always seek to work with parents to resolve concerns before using formal enforcement powers.