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Resources & Services

[EHE Guidance for Parents/Carers - Bury Council](#)

[Schools and Learning - Bury Council](#)

[School Attendance, Exclusions and Community Education](#)

[Elective home education: departmental guidance for local authorities \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

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What to do

If you visit a home and children are present during usual school hours, ask yourself, "Why are these children not in school?" Are you confident in asking the parents, in a polite manner, why the children aren't in school? If you aren't, or if you are not in a position to ask, you can always notify the local authority who can check the status of the children's education.

If you have reason to question whether a child is receiving 'suitable' home education, you can notify the Local Authority via email: ehe@bury.gov.uk

If you feel that a child/ren are at risk of significant harm, contact [Bury MASH](#)

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Working Together

The Community Learning Officers at Bury Council work together with schools/colleges, the EHE Communities; including children and families as well as multi-agencies and other local authorities. Our officers will support practitioners to ensure that multi-agency partners have a clear understanding of EHE.

In Bury we are committed to working with our EHE families and invite our EHE families to work together by holding coffee mornings/afternoons; this is to share good practice, ideas and to work together in partnership.

Bury Safeguarding Partnership

7 Minute Briefing: Elective Home Education (EHE)



[Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#)

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Background

Elective Home Education (EHE) is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home, instead of sending them to school, and taking responsibility for provision themselves. EHE is an option that any family may consider for their child/ren. The Local Authority (LA) has a responsibility to check the suitability of the parents' educational provision and not their motivation for doing so. There are many different reasons why parents decide to educate children at home, such as philosophical, spiritual or religious outlook, to meet the specific needs of a child/ren or due to a dissatisfaction with 'the system.' This can also be a short-term intervention for a particular reason. Whatever the circumstances, the LA aims to work closely with parents/carers.

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Why it matters

The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but school is not. The law gives parents the choice of educating their child at home so long as they ensure that their child receives an efficient and suitable, full-time education. The request for a given State to respect a parent's wishes is a key component of this statement and the implications of this are made more explicit in the Education Act 1996. The relevant section of the Act, Section 7, provides that: The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable 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.

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Information

There is no proven correlation between home education and safeguarding risk. However, should safeguarding concerns arise, the Community Learning Officer will follow Bury Council's safeguarding procedures. If a child has an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the Local Authority (LA) can help parents to make suitable provision. An EHC Plan of a home educated child must be reviewed annually by the LA. If a parent decides to educate a child on roll at a special school an interim review of the EHC Plan will be conducted. Parents may also home educate children who have SEN but no EHC Plan. They have the right to request an EHC assessment in the same way as if a child is on a school roll.

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Information

Home education can be a positive choice which is expected to lead to a better outcome for the child than other alternatives; in other cases, it may be attempted as a last resort, which may well have implications for the quality of home education which can be provided. Under section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a duty to intervene if it appears that parents are not providing a suitable education. A referral to Children Missing Education (CME) will be made and it may be necessary to apply for a School Attendance Order (SAO) (Sections 437-443, 1996 Education Act). It will be arranged for the child to be admitted to, and to attend, the school named on the Order; failure to do so would be an offence.