

Elective Home Education Policy Review

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Education

The need for Policy

[Elective home education: departmental guidance for local authorities](#) (April 2019)

The Department for Education recommends that every Local Authority has 'A written policy statement on elective home education, which is clear, transparent and easily accessible by using different formats as necessary, is consistent with the current legal framework and preferably drawn up in consultation with local families who educate children at home so that it can reflect both the challenges and rewards of educating children in this way'.

Rotherham's Policy

- Last updated in 2021
- Unnecessarily wordy and could be difficult for parents to navigate
- Although new Children and School's Wellbeing Bill proposes some changes for Elective Home Education Policy, it was felt Policy review presented a good opportunity to collaborate with home educators. Any changes brought about by the Bill can be assimilated into Policy at a further date and are not predicted to fundamentally change the Rotherham approach

What we did

- Informal engagement with Home Educators- all invited to attend sessions at Riverside Café on 21 and 27 January 2025
- Stakeholder event with key partners- 27 January 2025
- Engagement session with Improving Lives Select Commission 28 February 2025
- Formal consultation via the Council's webpage 16 April- 17 June 2025

Feedback

- The majority of responses were positive and in agreement with the proposals put forward
- Where there was disagreement, some of this was in relation to duties sitting outside of the statutory role of the LA, for example funding of examinations

Rotherham seems to have a good balance & way of working with Home Ed families. Keep up the good work!

More could be done to support EHE as a positive choice. For example, supporting EHEs with exam provision arrangements or holding events at transition points - accessing higher education or apprenticeships for example.

I prefer to keep my correspondence in writing and have had nothing but polite, professional and respectful communication.

My experience of the EHE team & policy has been very positive

I think it's vitally important that the EHE team remain approachable and working with Home Educators rather than against them.

Frequent visits / communication & stronger guidelines for parents and care givers.

The EHE policy still appears weighted towards EHE being a negative choice which is viewed with suspicion...More needs to be done to demonstrate EHE in a positive light

Next steps

- Policy is on forward plan for Cabinet agreement in October 2025
- Any changes mandated by changes to the National framework will be assimilated into the Policy by way of further update
- Revised Policy will be launched with schools and other stakeholders in November 2025, subject to agreement