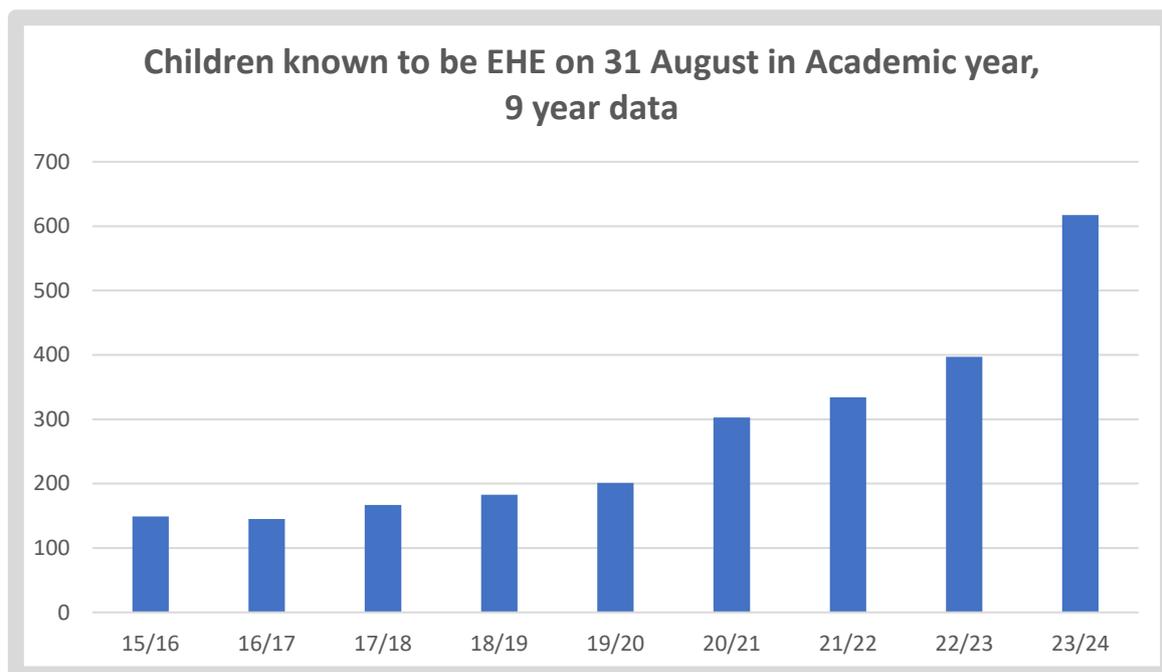


Elective Home Education Dashboard 2023-24

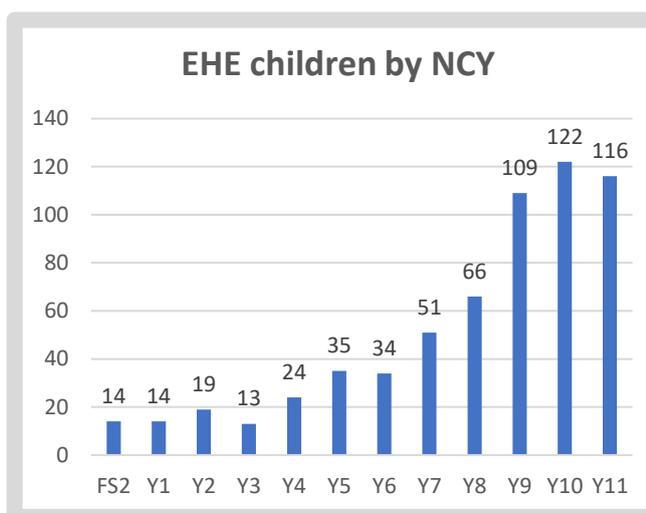
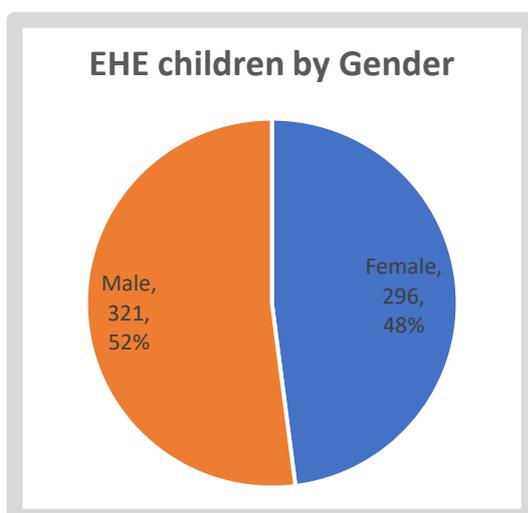
Unless otherwise indicated, data relates to Rotherham Children and Young People (CYP) who were known to be Electively Home Educated (EHE) on 31 August 2024. Although the year 11 children reported on had reached statutory school leaving age by this point, they are still included in the breakdown for completeness as they had been supported by the service during the preceding academic year.



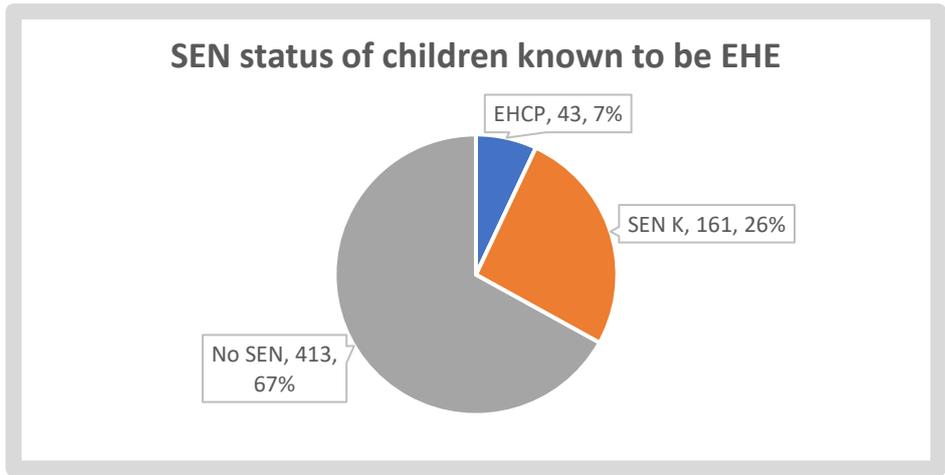
- There has been a year on year rise in the number of CYP who are known to be EHE. The steeper increase in 20/21 coincided with National trend seen following return of all children to education after the first National Lockdown; there has been a steady rise since then, although this was more significant in 2023/24. This is in line with National trending and Rotherham remains just below National average for the rate of CYP who are known to be EHE.

Elective Home Education in Rotherham on 31 August 2024

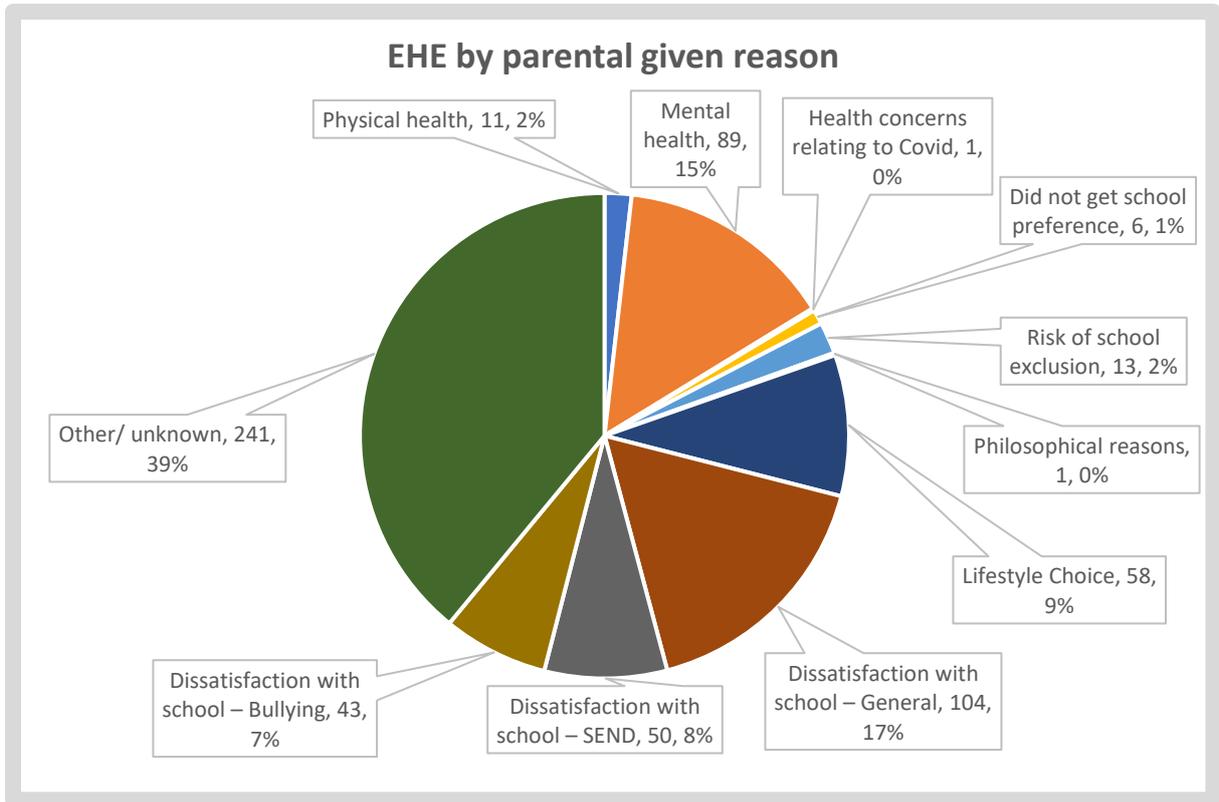
Total children known to be EHE on 31 August	617
Child Protection	3
Child in Need	11
Early Help involvement	43
Total known to be EHE at some point during the academic year	745



- There is a relatively even split of boys and girls who are EHE in Rotherham.
- EHE numbers rise through primary and into secondary, with a peak at year 10. This is in line with National reported trend. Numbers rise year on year as parents make decisions to withdraw children at different points in their educational journey and they continue to remain EHE. Increasingly parents report that children are not able to cope with the emotional demands placed on them as they progress through school, including the rigour of a KS4 curriculum and GCSE study.

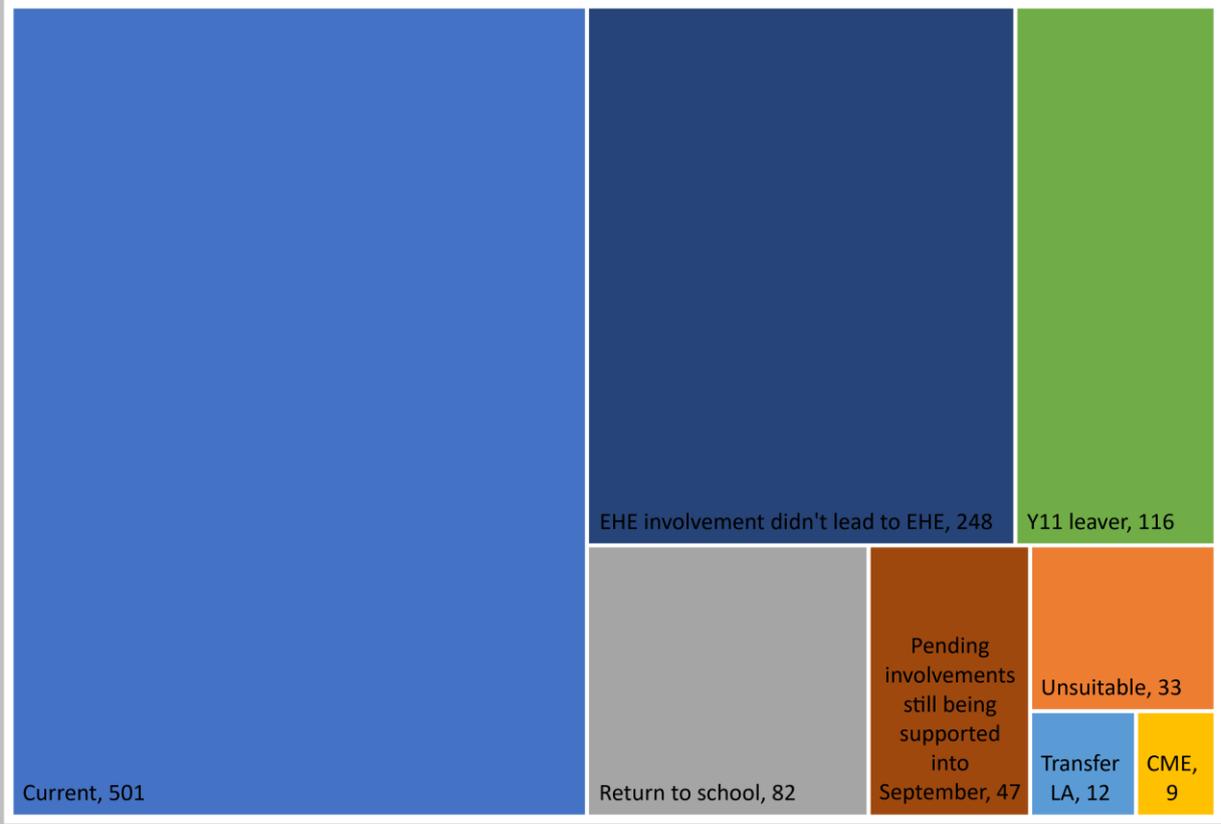


- The majority of children EHE in Rotherham do not have SEN needs recorded at the point they are deregistered from the school roll. Just under a third are recorded as having SEN needs, and are in receipt of either SEN support or have an EHCP. This mirrors the pattern seen during the previous academic year.



- Significant progress has been made by the EHE team over the past year in recording the reasons for EHE for a greater percentage of the cohort with only 39% reasons other/ unknown compared to 53% in the previous academic year. The descriptors used in Rotherham are in line with those used by the Department for Education in their termly collection
- This refinement in recording has seen the highest recorded parental reason shift to dissatisfaction with school- general (17%), followed by mental health (15%).
- A greater percentage of parents (9%) are reporting EHE as being a philosophical or lifestyle choice than in the previous year (6%)

EHE team involvements over the academic year



- The majority of the service output remains working in a supportive way to ensure that LA statutory duty is discharged in respect of children who are known to be EHE.
- 248 children (an increase of 93 on the previous year) remained on school roll as a result of intervention from the team- this is typically where a parent indicates to school that they intend to EHE and following a supportive conversation or meeting with a member of the team they go on to decide it isn't the most appropriate pathway for their child. Although this work doesn't form part of the core LA duty in relation to EHE the experience of the team is that this prevents children becoming EHE and then parents realising relatively quickly that they wish for their child to return to school.
- 82 children returned to school either because parents chose this or because EHE was no longer suitable.
- The number of occasions where EHE is felt to be unsuitable has risen from 3 in the last academic year to 33 in this. This steep rise may be attributable to a number of factors; parents making a rushed decision to EHE without full knowledge of the commitment they are taking on and this quickly proving to be unsuitable education for their child, a more refined understanding of what constitutes suitable education in Rotherham, underpinned by the confidence of the team to take the required action, and greater numbers of children being EHE in Rotherham.

Statutory intervention following EHE unsuitable decision

Referral to FAP to identify school place (parent hasn't applied when asked to do so)	33
Referral to LASAP and subsequent School Attendance Order issued	9
School Attendance Order breached	8

- The service always seeks to work in collaboration with parents where it is identified that children may not be in receipt of a suitable education. Where parents are unable to rectify this and decline to apply for a return to school, the EHE team is obliged to follow the Rotherham School Attendance Matters Pathway to ensure that this happens.
- During the academic year 2023-24 there was an increase in the number of referrals made through the pathway following EHE being unsuitable (2022-23 6 FAP referrals and 1 LASAP referral). The team have a robust referral and escalation route where needed and have a mature understanding of when and how to implement it.