

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The reasons parents chose to Electively Home Educate are varied.

Some are awaiting a school place and so only see it as a temporary measure. Other families cite bullying, others are critical of the school that their child had previously attended. This is often when the child has a Special Educational Need. 4.4% of the current EHE cohort has been withdrawn from Chantry School due to parental dissatisfaction.

When families are under threat of prosecution or being fined for non-school attendance, some withdraw the child from school and decide to EHE. Doing this they hope to try and avoid the legal route that may have been taken. A School Attendance Order is the alternative in this situation.

Some families have children with medical or mental health concerns that prompt their decision to EHE.

There are a number of families who make a conscientious decision to EHE. Some have never registered their child for formal education. The Local Authority should be made aware of these children from the Health Visitors that each pre-school child should have allocated. A few of the families state that they want to EHE for a specific amount of time or until their child is a particular age, predominantly 7 years old (the European and Scandinavian model). There has been an increase in EHE children due to family religious and cultural choices. Two girls are EHE because the family will not allow any contact with men. Plymouth Brethren children are frequently EHE from secondary school age.

There are currently 90 children on the EHE list. They range from 5 - 16 yrs (statutory school age). 52% are girls and 48% are boys. White U.K children are over-represented on the EHE register.

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Number of children EHE</u>
R	2 2.2%
1	8 8.8%
2	4 4.4%
3	4 4.4%
4	8 8.8%
5	8 8.8%
6	9 10%
7	7 7.7%
8	7 7.7%
9	8 8.8%
10	11 12.2%
11	14 15.5%

There is an annual influx of year 7 pupils early in September due to not getting their preferred secondary school choice. This levels out over the academic year. Similarly after Christmas or particularly Easter, year 11 pupils are registered as EHE. From the experience of other boroughs and counties, this may be accounted for as schools 'encourage' off-rolling to reflect their attainment outcomes in the most favourable light. The majority of Year 11 children in Hillingdon come from Northwood School and the two Academies.

All children who would be in Years 9, 10 and 11 are referred to Connexions so that they may obtain the same services as they would in school.

Families who EHE are contacted annually and in some cases (of concern) more frequently. They are visited and the welfare and education of the child is assessed and a report drawn up. Any safeguarding concerns are referred to Social Care colleagues for assessment. Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs who are EHE are subject to a Social Care assessment as a matter of course. There are six families that do not wish to engage with the local authority and prefer to send a parental report. This is their right under the current legislation. Whilst we report a current EHE register of 90, there may be many more EHE children in Hillingdon. They are not currently obliged to register this with the Local Authority. In terms of academic requirements, there are none. The current law does not require EHE parents to deliver the National Curriculum or any form of conventional academic education.

Therefore, it is impossible to 'fail' an EHE inspection on educational grounds. Following the Badman Report (2008), recommendations and consultation, it is expected that EHE legislation will change. The EHE lobby is highly vociferous and well organised. Hillingdon is planning for the change in legislation to require all EHE parents to register with the local authority. We believe that there may also be a requirement for publicly funded schools to open up their facilities (particularly ICT) to EHE children in the evenings.