

Elective Home Education Responsibilities

Parental Rights and Responsibilities

It is a parent's (the person with parental responsibility) responsibility to ensure that their children receive suitable full-time education from the first term after the child's fifth birthday until the last Friday in June of the year that the child turns 16 years old.

It is a parent's right to home educate their child and can do so at any point whilst the child is statutory school age. In order to **legally remove** a child from a school roll the **parent** must **write a letter** to the school that their child is enrolled at stating that they wish to remove their child from the school roll (students that are registered at a school) **in order to electively home educate**. The school is unable to remove the child from their school roll until they have received this letter.

Parents are **not required to register or seek approval** from the local authority to home educate their children. However it is really helpful for us to know in order to account for all of the children living in Somerset.

Parents who choose to educate their children at home must be prepared to **assume full financial responsibility**, including bearing the cost of any resources and public examinations.

Tutors

Some families use private home tutors to help with their home education. If this is something that you are interested in it is good practice to ensure that the tutor provides you with evidence of an in date DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. This shows whether they are eligible to work with children and any previous criminal history.

School Responsibilities

Where the child does not have an EHCP for any special educational needs –

Once a school has received a letter from the parents stating that they wish to remove their child from the school roll **in order to electively home educate** the school **must remove the child from their school roll**. The school cannot refuse this.

The school have a duty to inform the local authority that the child has left to be home educated and to provide details of any concerns about the home education where this applies.

The Local Authority's Responsibility

Somerset Local Authority has a statutory duty to:

"Make arrangements to enable them to establish the identities, so far as it is possible to do so, of children in their area who are not receiving a suitable education. The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll, and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being at school."

(Section 436A of the Education Act 1996)

Local authorities have no statutory duties in relation to monitoring the quality of home education on a routine basis. However, local authorities shall intervene **if it appears** that parents are not providing a suitable education.

This section states that:

"If it appears to a local education authority that a child of compulsory school age in their area is not receiving suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, they shall serve a notice in writing on the parent requiring him to satisfy them within the period specified in the notice that the child is receiving such education."

(Section 437(1) of the Education Act 1996)