



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

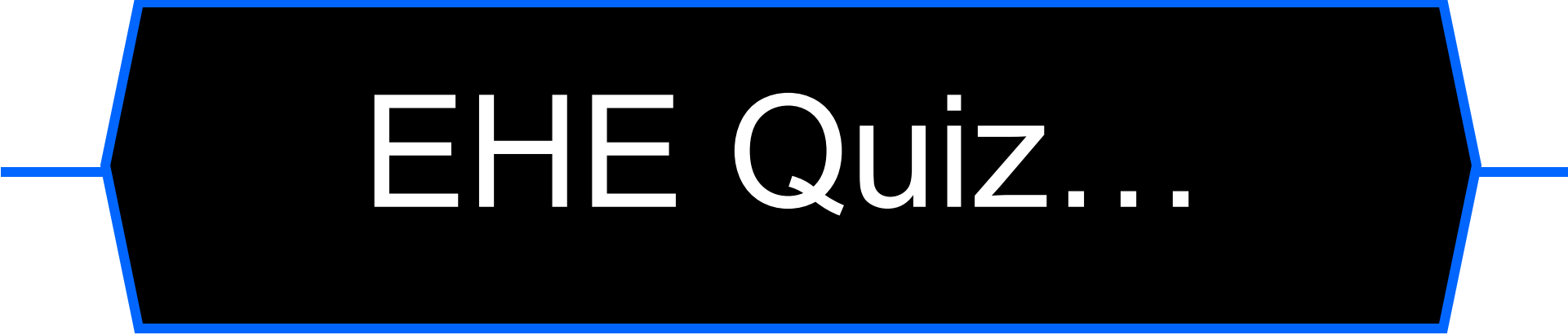
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Understanding Elective Home Education (EHE)

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Outline of Session

- Prior knowledge EHE quiz- addressing misconceptions.
- Legalities of EHE- following Parental/ LA Guidance 2019
- KCS in Education 2024
- Decisions EHE- Why? Choice or Not
- Darlington Data & Process
- Preventative Advice & Guidance for parents
- EHE Expectations for Schools
- Darlington Data & Process
- Misconceptions and Key Messages
- Questions



EHE Quiz...

Q1. Is school compulsory?

A No

B Yes - Of course

C No- Education is compulsory

D Sometimes

A1. Is school compulsory?

A

B

C No- Education is compulsory

D

Q2 How many children are currently EHE in England & Wales?

A 22,367

B 126,508

C 12,457

D 60,544

A2. How many children are currently EHE in England & Wales?

A

B 126,508 evidence from 22/23 suggests this figure is highly underestimated

C

D

Q3 How many children were EHE in Darlington last year?

A 385

B 240

C 304

D 356

A3. How many children are currently EHE in Darlington?

A 385

B 240

C 304

D 356

Q4. Do children educated at home need to follow the national curriculum?

A No- but can if they choose to

B Yes- they must follow NC

C They can do anything they like

D Don't need to do any education

A4. Do children educated at home need to follow the national curriculum?

A No- they can choose to- 'SUITABLE'

B

C

D

Q5. Do LA have powers to enter a family home to enquire about EHE?

A Sometimes

B Yes

C No

D Don't know

A5. Do LA have powers to enter a family home to enquire about EHE?

A

B

C No – Some refuse monitoring, send plans

D

Q6. Do LA have powers to talk to pupils about their education?

A Don't know

B YES

C No

D Sometimes

A6. Do LA have powers to talk to pupils about their education?

A

B

C NO – parents can refuse contact

D

Q7 What is CME?

A Child missing from care

B Child runaway from home

C Child not receiving suitable education

D Any of the above

A7. What is CME?

A

B

C Child not receiving 'suitable' education

D

Q8 What procedure must professionals follow if you believe a child is CME?

A Speak to parents

B Inform police

C Refer to Front Door & inform CME officer

D Email manager

A8. What procedure must you follow if you believe a child is CME?

A

B

C Always refer to be sure YP is registered

D

Q9. If a parent alludes to home educating a child what should you do?

A Give them EHE advisor's contact number

B All three – with consent

C Inform EHE advisor

D Give them links to EHE guidance

A9. If a parent eludes to home educating a child what should you do?

A

B All three- prevention is key!!

C

D

Q10. If a family have CP or EHC Plan, can they choose to EHE?

A Yes EHC No CP

B No

C Yes CP No EHC

D Yes

A10. If a family have CP or EHC Plan, can they chose to EHE?

A

B

C

D Yes- parents have a right to choose

Q11. Who is responsible for educating EHE YP in Darlington?

A All adults

B Themselves

C Parents

D Police

A11. Who is responsible for educating EHE YP in Darlington?

A

B

C Parents

D

Q12. Following National guidance how often should LA monitor suitable education?

A Once a month

B Once a week

C Twice a year

D Once a year

A12 Following National guidance how often should LA monitor suitable education?

A

B

C

D At least once year



The end...



Elective home education

Departmental guidance for local authorities

April 2019

Parents & LA Guidance 2019- **under review!!!**

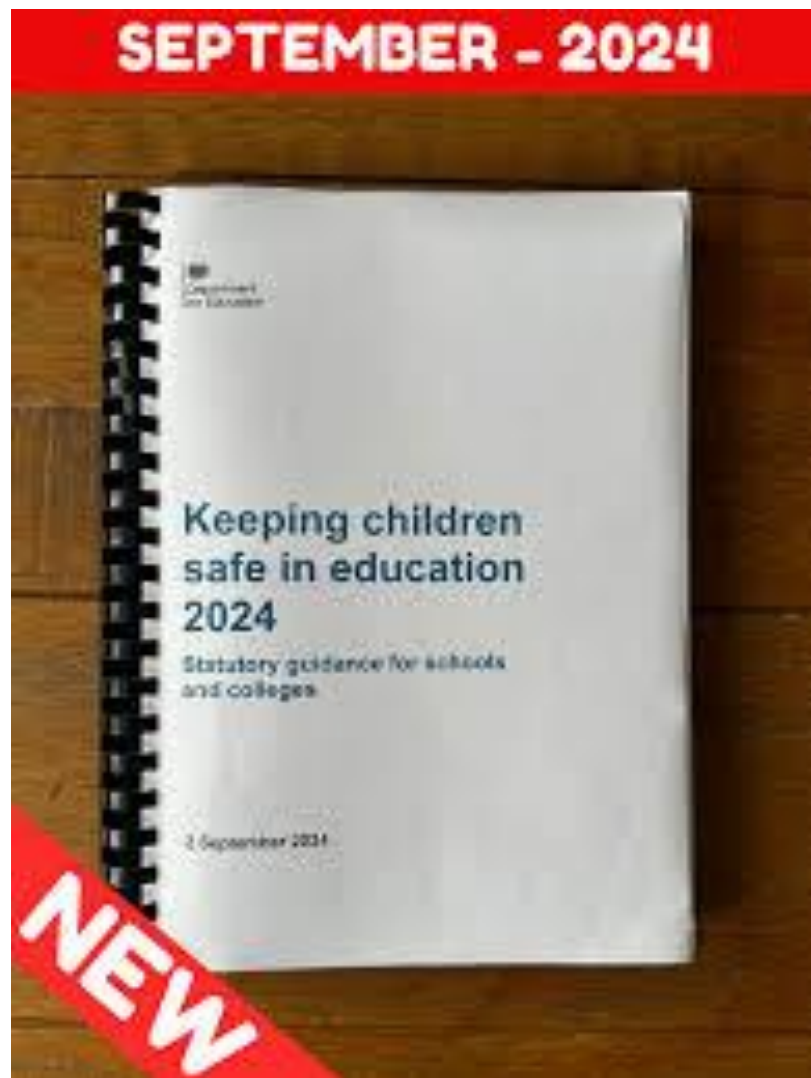
2.4 There are no specific legal requirements as to the content of home education, provided the parents are meeting their duty in s.7 of the Education Act 1996.

3.2 Parents have a right to educate their children at home. Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 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**.

3.3 This means that the responsibility for children's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but – despite the phrase 'child of compulsory school age' quoted above – going to school is not.

Elective home education is a form of 'education otherwise than at school' and this piece of legislation is the basis for the obligations of parents. It is also the starting point for local authorities' involvement.

5.1 The duty under s.436A dealt with above means that local authorities must make arrangements to find out so far as possible whether home educated children are receiving **suitable full-time** education.



Page 48-9 Para 179-182

179. Many home educated children have an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. We would expect the parents' decision to home educate to be made with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. However, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

181. Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, **we recommend that local authorities, schools, and other key professionals work together** to coordinate a meeting with parents/carers where possible. This would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure the parents/carers have considered **what is in the best interests of each child**. This is particularly important where a child has special educational needs or a disability, and/or has a social worker, and/or is otherwise vulnerable. Where a child has an Education, Health and Care plan local authorities will need to review the plan, working closely with parents and carers

182. DfE guidance for local authorities on Elective home education sets out the role and responsibilities of LAs and their powers to engage with parents in relation to EHE. Although this is primarily aimed at LAs, schools should also be familiar with this guidance.

Why do parents choose to EHE?

Parents Choice- COVID - Cultural Reasons- Poor Attendance – Avoid exclusion- Bullying- SEND need – Anxiety – Refuser – Advised to... MENTAL HEALTH – challenges neurodiverse pupils- sensory overload
Recruitment/retention- Disruption of bond between teachers/pupils

10.5 *Schools should not seek to persuade parents to educate their children at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because the child has a poor attendance record.* In the case of exclusion or SEND , they must follow the relevant legislation and have regard to the statutory guidance.

If the pupil has a poor attendance record, the school and, if appropriate, local authority should seek to address the issues behind the absenteeism and use the other remedies available to them.

10.6 The practice of ‘off-rolling’ pupils through pressure on parents to withdraw them for home education is thought to be a significant contributor to the increase in numbers of home educated children, particularly those aged 14-16, although information on the practice is difficult to obtain.

In such cases it is possible that the parent will be unable to provide proper home education, even if willing to attempt this.

LAs *should* seek to reach agreements through schools forums which discourage pressure on parents to educate children at home, and address this issue directly in discussion with relevant schools.

LAs *should* also consider informing Ofsted of schools where off rolling appears to be happening on a significant scale so that this can be looked into at the school’s next inspection.

EHE Guidance Note to Headteachers/DBC officers/Professionals

- Invite the parents to discuss any issues or concerns that could be resolved to enable the child to continue to be educated at school in a way which meets the parents' expectations. If the reasons for the decision to home educate are due to parental views/concerns of the provision for their child in your school then we would hope the issues could be resolved.
- If the child/young person is subject to an EHC plan the school should arrange an early annual review and record this request along with any new information. Where the child or young person attends a special school the decision to agree to EHE **must** rest with the LA. (Ultimately parent's choice)
- If the child/young person is subject to a Child Protection Plan, is a Child in Need or the family is involved with Early Help it is expected that the Social Worker of Early Help Officer is contacted.
- Provide them with the Home Education Information for parents and carers advice leaflet available from EHE advisor. Have a discussion regarding how the parent considers they will deliver the education at home.
- Provide the email address and contact number for the Elective Home Education Advisor, should they require further support and advice at this stage. Provide parents with a copy of 'Parent advice EHE 2020' previously sent to ALL schools.
- Schools should offer to supply two weeks work. This will reduce the impact on the pupil's learning if the parent/carers changes their mind and the pupil returns to your school. Schools should explain 2 week cooling off period.
- Organise a link adult in the school that the parent can contact for advice and support. This will also give them a way back in if they need it.
- If the parents' decision is firmly to home education then ask them to acknowledge this in writing.

EHE Guidance Note to Headteachers/DBC officers/Professionals

- When the school receives written notification from a parent of their intention to home educate, it is the responsibility of the school to inform DBC immediately of intention to remove a child's name from the register following. (Regulation 12 (3) of the "The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006) and to delete the child's name from the school register.
- DBC requires the school to do this within 3 working days of receiving the parents' letter. The school will complete the LA passport withdrawal form in as much detail as possible including SEND Safeguarding, behavioural and or attendance issues.
- Ensure that the pupil file is retained in accordance with usual procedures until requested by a receiving school. The parent may request a copy of the file.

However in the interests of the family, recommended good practice would be to allow a period of 10 school days after deletion of the name from the school register, for the parents to reflect on their decision having sought further advice and support and to change their mind if they so wish*.

***Under VPP protocol for 23-24, EHE pupils are re-admitted to their original school when requested unless the original school presents a case to the next VPP with a valid reason why the pupil cannot be readmitted. In this instance VPP is the arbiter of this reason submitted and decision is immediate and final at date of submission**

Darlington Borough Council
EHE Process



Prevention and Key Messages

- Preventative meetings at school at earliest mention of EHE
- Provide parents with EHE information- FAQ DfE Guidance
- Provide parents with my contact
- Schools to let me know if EHE likely so I can ensure parents make an informed choice.

Misconceptions & Questions?

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