

## **November 2018 - Elective Home Education (EHE) – Revision to processes for Year 11's with immediate effect**

Thank you to all those schools who have contacted the LA to discuss potential concerns or have provided fully completed de-registration information when parents have indicated their intention to electively home educate. This has helped identify any concerns and to prioritise contact with schools, services and parents. It is clear that many schools have used a variety of inclusive approaches to identify and meet young people's needs whilst remaining on roll and this good practice is recognised. In addition, there are some schools using other inclusive approaches prior to the Year 11 young person becoming EHE and this detail is included on the form. However, a number of schools have not sent in the de-registration forms in a timely way or provided fuller detail. There are increasing numbers of families of year 11 pupils that have indicated to the local authority that they have felt under pressure or encouraged to remove their child from roll and before the national census. This has implications in terms of increased risk with regards to both safeguarding and children missing education.

To confirm, it is the parent's responsibility to inform school of their intention to home educate which they should do in a signed letter to school. It is the school's responsibility to let Derbyshire County Council know. It is then Derbyshire County Council's responsibility to keep records up to date and make contact with parents and to intervene where home education is unsuitable.

We continue to have increasing numbers of young people being removed from schools in order to home educate. To highlight this, there were 613 young people who were removed from schools in order to home educate in 2014/15. The 2017/2018 figure had increased to 972. Since September 2018 alone, we have had 108 young people removed from schools.

We totally recognise the right for parents to electively home educate and do not wish to prevent young people from being removed in order to become home educated, where the parents fully recognise their duty and it is part of an informed choice. However, we have a duty to intervene regarding the pupils education, as well as any safeguarding concerns.

Since September 2018, we have received details of a significant number of young people who are Year 11 and due to be EHE. It is a concern that this is happening so late in their period of compulsory education. We know that some of the factors that have influenced their decision include attendance, exclusion, SEND, underachievement, welfare and admissions.

You will be aware that there are concerns nationally with patterns being examined by Ofsted, Children's Commissioner, Association of Directors of Children's Services and under scrutiny of the media. The DfE made a call for evidence and is currently revising their guidance regarding EHE. At the end of the month, EHE will be discussed again in the House of Commons. This action is likely to lead to the strengthening of processes and the role and duty of councils in England.

As a result of the above, it has been agreed that all Y11 potential removals in Derbyshire for EHE will be subject to a revised process with immediate effect.

Should your school receive any letters from parents regarding a proposed removal during Year 11, you are asked to provide the parents with the contact details of the EHE team, so that a member of the team can discuss their legal duty with them in view of the short timescale and implications for Post-16. You can at the same time, send in the completed paperwork, in the usual way.

What you include in the de-registration form is really important. These potential removals will now be prioritised and you are asked not to remove the pupil from the school roll until it has been confirmed with you what action to take. Prior to contact with the EHE team, it may help to consider what approaches your school has already used and if any other action is possible. It may be that other services or agencies could be contacted for any other support and this may include a Starting Point referral, early help or safeguarding team and or a Derbyshire traded service.

Your support with this revised process is appreciated. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Orlinda Dias, Manager Elective Home Education;  
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