



**CORNWALL
COUNCIL**
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Together 
for Families



Elective Home Education

Guidance for parents educating their child at home

Definition of suitable education and the reasons why the local authority may deem the education not to be suitable

Parents who are home educating their child(ren) are expected to provide evidence of a *suitable education* that would, on the balance of probabilities, convince a reasonable person that the education provided is suitable for the age, ability and aptitude of the child, and meets any special educational needs and disabilities that the child may have.

In considering the parent's provision of education the local authority may reasonably expect the provision to include the following characteristics:

Broad: it should introduce the child to a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills and must include Literacy and Numeracy.

Balanced: each part should be allotted sufficient time but not such that it pushes out other essential areas of learning.

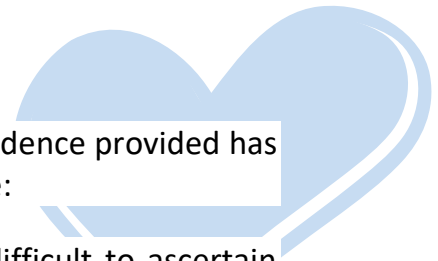
Relevant: subjects should be taught so as to bring out their application to the child's own experience and to adult life and to give due emphasis to practical aspects.

Personalised: what is taught, and how it is taught, needs to be matched to the child's age, abilities and aptitude, taking into account any special education need.

Efficient: whether the education being provided achieves what it sets out to achieve.

Full-time: that parents are able to quantify and demonstrate the amount of time spent on education.

A good education provision also includes other aspects at an appropriate level such as personal, social and health education, outdoor and environmental education, citizenship, careers, food technology and information and communication technology. Opportunities to mix and relate with other children and adults are considered to be important to a child's personal and social development.



There may be a variety of reasons why the information and or evidence provided has not been deemed suitable by the local authority. This may include:

- The education provision described lacks detail and it is difficult to ascertain what is being taught, the education being received or what subjects are being studied.
- There is no or very limited examples of work or learning submitted.
- There is no or very limited information regarding resources used internally and externally.
- There is no or very limited detail of how the child's progress is being planned for, monitored or examples of work or learning to demonstrate relevant progression.
- There is no clear academic or time structure.
- The education provision described lacks detail in how it will enable the child to participate fully in life, or that it will not foreclose the child's options in later life to adopt some other mode of living, and to be capable of living on an autonomous basis.

It is important to note that the above is for guidance and by way of example only and is not an exhaustive list. Each case is judged upon its own individual circumstances.

As a guide the types of information and evidence that can be submitted might include: a timetable, a curriculum plan, photographs, work books, progress reports, original dated work over time (or photocopies of this), art work/scrapbooks musical, academic and sporting achievements (certificates), diary of events and activities, conversations with the child / parent, home visits, plans for or outcomes of entering your child for qualifications, recordings, on-line blogs, website content, electronic presentations and content etc.

Home educators can use the EHE Record as a template guide, in order to provide information to the local authority regarding the suitability of the education that they are providing for their child. The template is not compulsory, it can also be adapted by home educators to meet their individual requirements.

The local authority needs to be satisfied that suitable education is taking place through building a full picture of the individual circumstances rather than rigid adherence to a check list.