

ELECTIVELY HOME EDUCATED

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

DRAFT

Elective Home Education (EHE)

Academic Year 2022-23

OVERVIEW

- During the last 12 months 2,951 children and young people were registered as home educated at some point during the year. This equates to 3.3% of the school age population. There is an overall reduction in EHE due to lifestyle and choice;
- This figure represents a 17.9% increase on 2021-22 figures and is the highest on record for Devon County Council
- In addition to the number of registered children and young people, there were 165 recorded as not registered. They are known to be residing in Devon, but they have no involvement with the Elective Home Education Service. This is because there is no legal requirement to register if a child has never attended school or they have moved to the area from out of county
- During the last 5 years numbers of children and young people registered as home educated has risen each year except during 2019-20 when there was a slight decrease in numbers. This was due to schools being closed in March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Numbers surged when schools reopened, particularly at the start of the Autumn term 2020;
- There were 1,243 new cases during 2022-23, a 32% increase on 2021-22 figures.

ANALYSIS/TRENDS

Numbers of registered EHE children as a percentage of the school population:

Academic Year	Number of registered EHE children*	% of total school population**
2018/19	1940	1.7
2019/20	1907	1.9
2020/21	2389	-
2021/22	2502	2.0
2022/23	2951	3.1

*These figures represent all children and young people who were EHE at some point during 2022-23

**Data taken from the number of children aged 5-16 years in the Autumn school census

- During 2022-23 the overall number of girls being home educated slightly exceeded the number of boys – 1,551 girls, 1400 boys. The second time since 2012.

Number of boys compared to girls being home educated:

Academic Year	Number of boys	Percentage boys	Number of girls	Percentage girls
2018/19	999	51.5	941	48.5
2019/20	979	51.4	925	48.6
2020/21	1199	50.2	1190	49.8
2021/22	1195	47.8	1304	52.2
2022/23	1400	47.4	1551	52.6

- During 2022-23 240 children and young people with an Education Health Care Plan were registered as home educated: This was a 10% increase on the previous year and highest on record.
- During 2022-23 there were 95 new cases with an EHCP; whilst 33 children returned to school or were provided with alternative provision.

Number of registered EHE children with Education Health Care Plans

Academic Year	Number with EHCP
2018/19	123
2019/20	166
2020/21	197
2021/22	217
2022/23	240

*These figures represent all children and young people who were EHE with an EHCP at some point during 2022-23

- During 2022-23 the number of primary age children being home educated increased by 1.4% compared to the previous year; whilst the number of secondary age children being home educated increased by 29.5%. The overall numbers of secondary age children being home educated has seen year on year increases for the last 5 years

Numbers of registered EHE children at each Key Stage:

Academic Year	EY & KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4
2018/19	255	539	606	540
2019/20	270	553	534	550
2020/21	367	776	718	528
2021/22	294	731	872	605
2022/23	282 (50 EY)	757	1131	781

EHE DECISIONS

Previously the main reasons provided by parents for deciding to home educate were lifestyle and philosophical or preferential reasons, however, mental health issues are now reported as the number one reason for home education.

Reason for EHE	All registered students	New students for 2022-23
Accessing a school place	20	19
Did not get school preference	29	14
Dissatisfaction with school - SEND	77	40
Dissatisfaction with school - bullying	64	59
Dissatisfaction with school – general	357	148
Health concerns – Covid 19	74	0
Lifestyle choice	101	77
Mental health	774	353

No reason recorded	11	0
Other	326	114
Parent / guardian no reason	5	5
Permanent exclusion	7	5
Philosophical or preferential	539	65
Physical health	24	11
Religious reasons	1	1
Risk of school exclusion	30	20
Unknown (at point of registration)	512	312
Total:	2951	1243

EHE TEAM

The EHE team current structure is:-

- Professional Lead for EHE (1 FTE)
- EHE Advisers (2.5 FTE Term Time)
- EHE Officer (0.5 FTE Term Time)
- EHE Family Support Worker (1 FTE Term Time)

Summary of activity includes:

Ensuring children receive a suitable education:

- During 2022-23 275 home visits were undertaken, as well as advice and support provided through virtual meetings, telephone calls, emails and the EHE website.
- The overall number of home visits has now returned to pre-pandemic levels, however, due to the significant increase in EHE numbers, a smaller proportion of children overall are being seen.
- In 22 cases where EHE was judged unsuitable, the school attendance order process was instigated; in 4 cases parents were fined, in 3 cases the children went on roll prior to going to court, whilst 12 other cases are on-going or placed on hold due to mitigating circumstances. In 4 cases suitable evidence was provided and therefore home education has continued
- During 2022-23, 363 children and young people returned to school, 83 moved out of county, 19 moved abroad and 54 were listed as Children Missing Education due to unsuitable home education provision.

Safeguarding:

- During the last 12 months there have been 195 police incidents reported involving EHE children. Each incident is followed up and support offered by the EHE team as appropriate
- A number of children and young people are registered with the EHE Service at varying stages within the child protection process and receive on-going support from the EHE team through home visits and liaison with a range of agencies, as well as attendance at relevant meetings.
- In addition, the EHE Family Support Worker liaises closely with Early Help colleagues across Devon, supporting families requiring Early Help

Safeguarding meetings & welfare checks undertaken	2022-23 Total
Strategy	20
CP review / ICPC meeting	33
CP Core Group meeting	45
CIN meeting	63
Safeguarding / welfare home visit checks	51