

EHE – Elective Home Education

Coombeshead Academy strongly believe the best place for students is in school, in front of expert teachers. This is not only the best option for their education, but for their social skills, mental health and to help them to understand the wider world and build resilience. Therefore, we strongly discourage students moving to EHE.

Are you considering EHE – Elective Home Education?

While home education can work for some families, it may not always be the best option for your child's secondary education. The number of students being placed on EHE is rising rapidly, both nationally and within Devon. In addition, we are concerned about the number of students from Coombeshead Academy who have been placed on EHE this year.

EHE is often a response to a short-term concern such as your child falling out with friends, anxiety issues, worried about being taken through the attendance procedure or bullying. Parents often take students out of school short term to relieve the immediate issue, however, do not always have the skills or resources to formally educate their child in the wide range of areas and subjects they get at school.

Parents often plan to reintegrate their child back into their current school or, at times, a different school later in the year. This makes things much more difficult for the child as they miss significant sections of learning and then struggle when they go back into lessons as they have fallen behind. These students never fully catch up on this missed work and research shows students who have had periods of home education often do not perform well in their GCSE or A level exams. They quickly lose friendships, spend more time on social media and as a result anxiety can increase and mental health deteriorate.

If you are considering EHE please contact us straight away. We will do all we can to resolve your concern and even if you eventually chose to move your child to another school, its important they keep attending right up until the move.

Here are some important reasons to consider before making a decision to move to home education:

- **Legal responsibility:** As a parent, you'll be responsible for meeting all of your child's educational needs. This means delivering a well-rounded curriculum and ensuring your child reaches their full potential across various subjects. This requires a significant amount of time, energy, and effort from parents. Parents may need to cover costs for textbooks, computer equipment, sports activities, and any additional tutoring that may be needed. Additionally, exam fees for GCSEs and A-Levels can add up quickly, often totalling hundreds of pounds and finding a centre who accepts candidates for examinations can be very difficult.
- **Gaps in knowledge:** As a parent, you might not have expertise in every subject area, leading to gaps in your child's education and difficulty covering all necessary topics. This is especially difficult when they return to a school or sit external examinations.
- **Social concerns and limited extracurricular opportunities:** Home educated children may miss out on opportunities such as extracurricular clubs, school events, work experience, school trips and rewards for achievements through assemblies and award events. Your child might miss out on valuable social experiences with peers, which can impact their ability to interact in diverse environments and develop important social skills.

- **Long-term educational impact:** If you intend to home educate only for a short time, it could affect your child's readiness for future education and career opportunities. A traditional school setting often prepares students more effectively for higher education or the workforce.

Choosing the right educational path for your child is a big decision. We encourage you to consider all factors carefully to ensure you are making the best choice for their long-term success.

Please speak to us if you are worried, this can be your child's Year Team Leader, Student Support Officer, Mr Balsdon our Deputy Headteacher or myself as we are very keen to support our students and their families.

Best wishes,

Mrs Helen Coulson

