



# What is flexi-schooling, EOTAS and Elective Home Education?

## Children and young people without EHC Plans

### Flexi-schooling

#### **Government guidance for Parents on Elective Home Education states:**

1.3 Although children being home educated are not normally registered at any school or college, you may choose to make arrangements for a child to receive part of his or her total education at a school ('flexi-schooling') - or at an FE college or other 16-19 provider if the child is aged 14 or above. The purpose of this will often be to provide education in specific subjects more easily than is possible at home. Schools and colleges are under no obligation to agree to such arrangements, but some are happy to do so.

6.3 Children who are being educated at home sometimes attend other settings to supplement that home education. If you wish your child to attend a state or independent school part-time for this purpose you should discuss this with the school concerned. The school is under no obligation to accept such an arrangement. If your child does undertake this form of 'flexi-schooling', you will need to get absences from school which occur when your child is being educated at home authorised by the school in the same way as parents of full-time pupils do for other planned absence. Then the school should mark him or her in the attendance register as being on authorised absence when not at school.

For more information, click here: [Elective home education: guide for parents \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/elective-home-education-guide-for-parents.pdf)

### **EOTAS – “Education Otherwise Than At School”**

A child will need an EHC plan to access EOTAS. EOTAS can be discussed during the process of an EHC needs assessment. The Local Authority need to be satisfied that an

education setting would not be appropriate for the child or young person. See below for further detail on EOTAS.

### **Elective Home Education**

We do not advise Elective Home Education. We advise that the child or young person remains on the school roll/ school register. Elective Home Education is a big step where the parent assumes full responsibility for the child's education, including all costs. As a parent or carer, you do not need permission to de-register your child from their educational setting. However, we advise that you discuss your child or young person's Special Educational Needs Support with the school. For more information on your child or young person's right to support, visit the Bexley IASS Website, click here: [Get Informed - EDUCATION: SEN Support - Bexley IASS](#)

## **Children and young people with EHC Plans**

### **Flexi-schooling**

Flexi-schooling is defined (see above) in the Government guidance for parents on Elective Home Education. This may be requested during an EHC needs assessment or review of the EHC plan. Flexi-schooling may be arranged by the school setting. If this is arranged, it is then important for the Local Authority to amend the EHC plan, specifying the change in provision. For Flexi-schooling, the child or young person remains on roll at the educational setting. You may also consider a flexi-schooling request as a Reasonable Adjustment request, in response to the child or young person's disability. Click here for more information on Reasonable Adjustments and the Equality Act: [Equality & Inclusion | Bexley IASS](#)

### **EOTAS**

If any school or college is not appropriate for the child or young person, the Local Authority can arrange for any special educational provision which the child or young person requires to be delivered somewhere other than in a school, college or early years setting. This is often known as '**education otherwise than at school**'. The Local Authority would then be responsible for continuing to secure and fund that provision. Examples of EOTAS may include online learning, home tuition or therapies such as Speech and Language Therapy.

This can be requested during an EHC needs assessment or during the process of an EHC plan review.

In order for the Local Authority to decide if education otherwise than at school would be appropriate, they would need to consider:

- the child's background and medical history
- the particular educational needs of the child
- the facilities that can be provided by a school
- the facilities that could be provided other than in a school
- the comparative cost of the possible alternatives to the child's educational provisions
- the child's reaction to education provisions, either at a school or elsewhere
- the parents' wishes

If an EOTAS package is agreed, it should be explained and specified in Section F (the provision) of the EHC Plan.

### **Elective Home Education**

As the child or young person has an EHC plan, the Local Authority must agree to Elective Home Education. It is normally requested during the process of a review of an EHC plan.

We do not advise Elective Home Education: the local authority is not under a duty to make the special educational provision set out in the EHC plan, but it must still review the plan annually to assure itself that the provision set out in it continues to be appropriate and that the child's special educational needs continue to be met. If a parent or carer chooses Elective Home Education, they are now responsible for funding and providing the provision written in the EHC plan.

For more information on Elective Home Education, visit the **Bexley Local Offer**. Click here: [Elective Home Education | Bexley Local Offer](#)

## **Some things to consider before requesting Flexi-schooling, EOTAS or Elective Home Education**

### **Children or young people without EHC plans:**

Have needs been identified? Is there an SEN support plan in place?

A child or young person does not need a diagnosis to access special educational needs support. With the appropriate support in place, the child or young people may feel more engaged in their educational setting. Visit the Bexley IASS Website, click here for more information: [Get Informed - EDUCATION: SEN Support - Bexley IASS](#)

### **Children or young people with EHC plans:**

Has there been a review of the EHC plan?

You may wish to discuss during the review:

Is the provision in the EHC plan being delivered by the current educational setting? What is written in the EHC plan should be delivered. Would the child or young person engage more in their educational setting if all the provision was being delivered? There is a duty to deliver the provision specified in the EHC plan.

Does the EHC plan need to be amended? Does Section B reflect the child or young person's current needs? Does Section F reflect the provision needed to meet the needs of the child or young person? Professional reports may be needed to amend the EHC plan. The school should gather the professional reports before the annual review.

For more information on EHC plans and the process of annual review, visit the Bexley IASS Website, click here: [Get Informed - The Education, Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) - Bexley IASS](#)

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