

The Rydal Academy

Elective Home Education Policy

Accepted by: Local Governing Body, March 2022

Approving Body: Local Governing Body

Committee: LGB

Review Cycle: 1 year

Last reviewed: December 2021

Date for next review: March 2025

The Rydal Academy will follow Darlington Borough Council's Guidance for Elective Home Education as follows:

1. Invite the parents to discuss any issues or concerns that could be resolved to enable the child to continue to be educated at school in a way which meets the parents' expectations.
2. In guidance for full opening dated 10/9/20 under behaviour expectations it specifies *'take account of individual needs' and 'schools should work with those pupils who struggle...including support for overcoming barriers to attendance and behaviour and help them reintegrate back into school life'*. A school should offer to make reasonable adjustments, consider a plan a phased return or temporarily shortened timetable to encourage the family to allow the child to return to school. 'What parents and carers need to know about EY providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term' it states there within the *'attendance at school and college' part "if children and young people have found lockdown exceptionally difficult, then their school or college may suggest a brief phased return. This will only be if it suits the needs of your child and is agreed with you in advance. Your child will be supported to return to full-time attendance as soon as they can'*.
3. If the child/young person is subject to an EHC plan the school should arrange an early annual review and record this request along with any new information. Where the child or young person attends a special school the decision to agree to EHE rests with the LA.
4. If the child/young person is subject to a Child Protection Plan, is a Child in Need or the family is involved with Early Help it is expected that the Social Worker of Early Help Officer is contacted.
5. If the parents' decision is firmly to home education then ask them to acknowledge this in writing.
6. Provide them with the Home Education Information for parents and carers advice leaflet available from EHE advisor. Have a discussion regarding how the parent considers they will deliver the education at home.
7. Provide the email address and contact number for the Elective Home Education Team, should they require further support and advice at this stage.
8. Offer to supply two weeks work. This will reduce the impact on the pupil's learning if the parent/carer changes their mind and the pupil returns to your school.
9. Organise a link adult in the school that the parent can contact for advice and support. This will also give them a way back in if they need it.
10. When the school receives written notification from a parent of their intention to home educate, it is the responsibility of the school to inform DBC immediately of intention to remove a child's name from the register following. (Regulation 12 (3) of the "The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2006) and to delete the child's name from the school register.

DBC requires the school to do this within 3 working days of receiving the parents' letter. The school will complete the LA withdrawal form in as much detail as possible including SEND Safeguarding, behavioural and or attendance issues.

However in the interests of the family, recommended good practice would be to allow a period of 10 school days after deletion of the name from the school register, for the parents to reflect on their decision having sought further advice and support and to change their mind if they so wish.

11. Ensure that the pupil file is retained in accordance with usual procedures until requested by a receiving school. The parent may request a copy of the file.

Should a parent be considering EHE for their child it is essential the EHE advisor is made aware as early as possible.

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NB: This document is based on most up to date DfE guidance and is subject to change at short notice.

All Hyperlinks below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/elective-home-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings?fbclid=IwAR2YA0suSSUsF8roF_dzqtK9EsbZPKIOrxqn1HMU0kqTFFp7QowhuFJtve8

Rydal Academy procedures if a parent expresses a preference to Electively Home Educate their child

