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# Elective Home Education in Southwark

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# What is Elective Home Education?

- Elective home education is where parents choose to take full responsibility for educating their child at home, rather than sending them to school
- It is distinct from medical home tuition which may be arranged by LAs where a child is unable to attend school because of illness.

# What does home education look like?

- There is no single model.
- No requirement to follow national curriculum, though most do work towards exams.
- Some parents undertake most education themselves, some employ tutors, many take part in home education groups with other parents and children.

# Legal position (1)

- 'education is compulsory, but school is not... parents have the right to choose to educate their child at home' (Department for Education)
- Parents must ensure children 'receive efficient full-time education' which prepares 'them for adult life in their community, as long as it does not foreclose the child's options in later years to adopt some other form of life if s/he wishes to do so'

# Home education in Southwark

- 92 children in Southwark known to be being electively home educated at beginning on 2017/18, an increase from 59 in 2015
- 62% boys, 38% girls.
- One child protection case, one open for social care assessment, five previously open to social care.
- 9 children with Education, Health and Care plan.

# Age of Southwark home educated children

School Year	Age	Number of children
R	4-5	1
1	5-6	5
2	6-7	7
3	7-8	12
4	8-9	3
5	9-10	6
6	10-11	6
7	11-12	14
8	12-13	8
9	13-14	14
10	14-15	5
11	15-16	11

# Home education advice

- Southwark's Pupil Tracking and Licensing Team maintains a register of children known to be home educating, where there are concerns they are discussed at a monthly Children Missing Education monitoring meeting.
- Southwark employs a home education advisor who offers an annual home visit to families (they do not have to take up this offer).

# Safeguarding issues – risk of neglect

- No concern about overwhelming majority of Southwark home educating families.
- Social care/education concerns have included cases with parent alcohol problems, non-engagement with services (including health), and where young people have previously been at school and had serious attendance and/or behaviour issues.



# Key points

- Don't assume all children are in school.
- Don't assume that home education is a problem.
- Don't assume home educated children are being seen and actively monitored by LA.
- Do be 'professionally curious' and seek advice if you have concerns about children's well-being.

# Future developments

- Government has announced it will be consulting on new home education guidance, after concerns were raised by Association of Directors of Children's Services and Ofsted.
- In Southwark we have set up a working group to review health offer to home educating families and information sharing between education and health.

# Southwark Pupil Tracking and Licensing Team

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