

Appendix 1: Elective Home Education Survey Results

Summer term 2025

The survey received 131 responses from parents who currently have an electively home educated child.

1. How old is your home educated child?

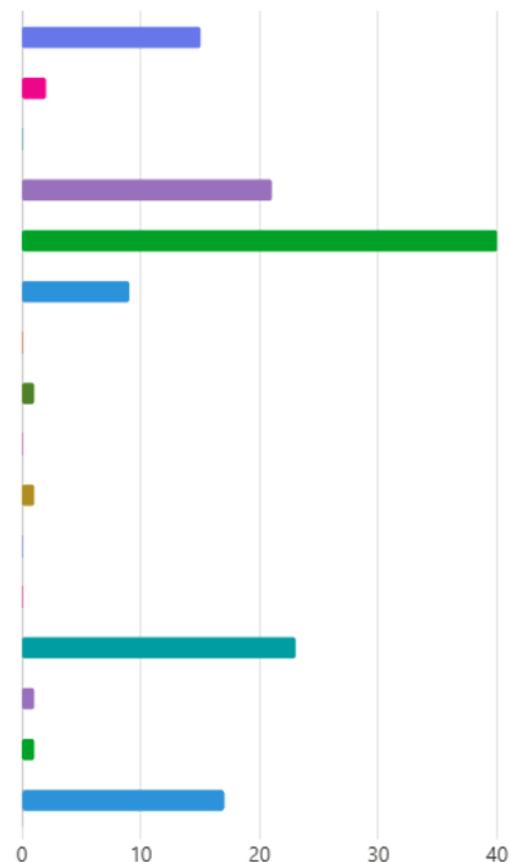
- 31% 10 years old or below
- 66% 11 -16 years old
- 3% 17+

2. What age was your child when you started to home educate?

- 46% 10 years old or below
- 53% 11 -16 years old

3. What is the main reason you chose to home educate your child?

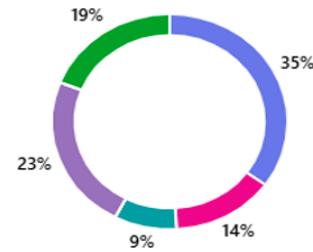
● Philosophical or preferential reasons - You have chosen to home educate in order to follow...	15
● Lifestyle choice - You have chosen to home educate due to your family's lifestyle choice. This...	2
● Religious reasons - You have chosen to home educate because your religious views are not...	0
● Dissatisfaction with the school - general - You have chosen to remove your child from their...	21
● Dissatisfaction with the school - SEND - You have chosen to remove your child from their...	40
● Dissatisfaction with the school - bullying - You have chosen to remove your child from the...	9
● Suggestion/pressure from the school - Your child's school suggested home education.	0
● Risk of school exclusion - you chose to remove your child from school before they were excluded.	1
● Permanent exclusion - your child was permanently excluded from their previous school.	0
● Did not get school preference - Your child did not receive their first choice of school preference...	1
● Difficulty in accessing a school place - There are no suitable school places available e.g. for...	0
● Physical health - Child is EHE due to one or more physical health conditions e.g. autoimmun...	0
● Mental health - Child is EHE due to one or more mental health conditions e.g. anxiety.	23
● Health concerns relating to COVID-19 - Child is EHE due to underlying health conditions whic...	1
● I do not wish to disclose my reasons	1
● Other	17



4. Please give any relevant further explanation of your reasons. – See below.

5. Before making this decision, did you receive advice from others? (please tick all that apply)

Home education forums/ charities	57
Your child's school	23
The local Authority	14
Family and friends	38
Other	31



6. Thinking about your child's previous school, please tick any of the statements below that apply:

Statement	Number of Responses	Percentage of total responses (%)
The school understood my decision and was supportive of it	45	34.4%
The school advised me on agencies that could support me	6	4.6%
The school informed me of the process, including that they would be informing the local authority	35	26.7%
The school actively tried to discourage me from removing my child	18	13.7%
The school actively encouraged me to remove my child	28	21.4%
Not applicable, my child has never attended a school	9	6.9%

7. If any of the issues you have described could be resolved, would you want your child to attend school?

- 33% Yes
- 32% No
- 27% Maybe
- 8% Not Applicable

8. Would you recommend home education to other families?

- 65% Yes
- 8% No
- 38% Maybe

Question 4 Parent Comments (sorted into themes):

Note: some have been removed or are partial to ensure confidentiality.

1. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

- “My child was making himself physically ill at school.”
- “Extreme anxiety and depression, panic attacks and suicidal thoughts.”
- “She started self harming because of the pressure she was under.”
- “Mental health declined massively and it has taken 6 months to rehabilitate.”
- “My child’s mental health needs are unmet.”
- “My daughter was suffering immensely with her mental health.”
- “My son attempted to end his own life.”
- “My child was diagnosed with a health condition which affected her physical and mental health including anxiety.”
- “My daughter was bullied... she want to learn and go to university but in that environment she wasn’t able to.”
- “My child threatened his OWN life rather than go back to school.”
- “Mental health crisis and suicidal ideation.”

2. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- “SEND needs were ignored.”
- “School didn’t understand autism.”
- “EHCP refused to issue.”
- “My daughter has ASD and ADHD.”
- “Awaiting diagnosis—on a 4 year waiting list.”
- “School refused to put on a part-time timetable.”
- “SEND needs not being met.”
- “My child was undiagnosed autistic.”
- “School refused to acknowledge autism traits.”
- “My son has now been diagnosed ADHD despite the school saying there’s nothing wrong.”

3. Loss of Trust in the School System

- “School was totally unhelpful.”
- “XX didn’t help with bullying or mental health.”
- “School admitted they couldn’t meet my daughter’s needs.”
- “School let my child down and admitted ‘there is nothing more they can do.’”

- “Support was agreed upon but never actioned.”
- “No communication with school at all.”
- “Teachers just shout even at the good kids.”
- “School failed my daughter in every aspect.”

4. Bullying and School Refusal

- “Bullying was ignored.”
- “School refused to sort out severe bullying.”
- “18 months of meetings... bullying got so bad my son attempted to end his own life.”
- “My child was being bullied... school didn’t take it seriously.”
- “My daughter was bullied, and the school wasn’t able to handle it.”
- “School lost my child twice. Allowed her to be bullied and did nothing.”
- “My son could not be kept safe in school due to bullying, assaults and allegations.”

5. Cultural, Religious, and Philosophical Values

- “We also feel that school is an antiquated and rigid system.”
- “Universal suffrage in education as currently conceived is a capitalist construct.”
- “Normalisation of religion/monarchy. Uniform regimentation. Conservative social values.”

6. COVID-19 Legacy and Remote Learning

- “During lockdown she flourished so we opted not to send her back.”
- “During the COVID-19 pandemic, our school provided little to no academic support.”

7. Flexibility and Autonomy

- “Home education lets us teach in a way that suits our child.”
- “Trains daily at a tennis academy and competes regularly.”
- “All knowledge can be accessed online, and my kids are benefitting massively from 1 to 1 attention.”
- “My child is more comfortable at home learning.”