

# Follow Up Report Regarding Elective Home Education (EHE)

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## Introduction

This report follows from the report on the EHE audit in Spring Term 2022. At that point there were significant pressures on the system as the community moved from lockdown to an expectation of full attendance at school. It shows the current position, actions taken and the next proposed steps.

## Number of Children Moving In and Out of EHE – Academic Year to Date

At the point of the audit in January 2022 there were 278 children who were being electively home educated. 175 of these were of secondary age and 103 were primary aged.

As of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, there are now 328 children who are electively home educated. By way of comparison the figures for the same period for the last three years are below:

	2020	2021	2022
<b>Moved to EHE</b>	79	49	48
<b>Moved from EHE</b>	40	56	17
<b>Increase/Decrease</b>	39	-7	31

This is of concern as the last comparable increase in numbers was deemed to be a response to the return to school post Covid. It is not clear what the specific driver is in this case beyond a stated belief in these parents (who responded) that their child was not having their needs met in school.

School	Phase	Number
<b>St Margaret's</b>	Primary	3
<b>Roselands</b>	Primary	1
<b>Preston</b>	Primary	2
<b>Never in School</b>	Primary	2
<b>Brixham</b>	Primary	1
<b>Furzeham</b>	Primary	1
<b>Barton Hill</b>	Primary	1
<b>Primary Total</b>		<b>11</b>

School	Phase	Number
<b>TGGS</b>	Secondary	1
<b>TBGS</b>	Secondary	1
<b>Torquay Academy</b>	Secondary	4
<b>The Spires College</b>	Secondary	2
<b>St Cuthbert Mayne</b>	Secondary	2
<b>Paignton Academy</b>	Secondary	3
<b>Out of Area</b>	Secondary	2
<b>Burton Academy</b>	Secondary	3
<b>Brixham College</b>	Secondary	1
<b>Secondary Total</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Combe Pafford</b>	Special	<b>1</b>

As can be seen, only six of the primary schools in Torbay removed children from roll to EHE. Within this period, all secondaries except Churston Ferrers Grammar School removed children to EHE. It is important to note that the three children leaving St Margaret's were all from a single family who have declined to give a reason for their decision.

Only one of the newly EHE children is receiving education of a concerning standard and officers are working to either improve this or move back to a school.

Five of these children are on SEN Support and five have Education Health and Care Plans. None are open to statutory social care.

## Actions Since the Last Report

Since the last report the following actions have been taken:

1. A new module for the Capita One system has been acquired and is undergoing user testing before a go live date of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.
2. All staff in the team have been trained in the use of the system.
3. The 46-case backlog reported last academic year has been cleared.
4. All newly EHE children's families are contacted on the day officers are made aware.
5. Initial meetings are held within two weeks.
6. All children are now recorded as seen or not seen on records.
7. Information is shared with TESS to support MASH work around CARA's.
8. The team now enjoys dedicated business support.
9. The team have moved to a 0-10 measure of confidence regarding safeguarding to better align with other processes such as ICPC and strategy meetings.
10. Officers now work alongside the Virtual School Extended Duties Officers to support social care and early help colleagues.

## Next Steps

The proposed next steps for the team are:

1. Transfer all basic information regarding live EHE cases to Capita by January 2023
2. Use the new system for all new cases from go live – 23rd November 2022
3. Plan and record all reviews for the next 12 months by January 2023.
4. Continue to develop proactive work to limit the numbers choosing EHE through dissatisfaction with schools.
5. Develop a process that transfers children assessed as not receiving suitable education to a CME process.
6. Develop reporting tools from the data now the system is starting to hold all information.
7. Create links between the CSS module and LCS/EHM systems to ensure officers have the latest status to inform assessments.