

## ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION POLICY

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Directors on :	Spring 2026
This Policy will be reviewed by the GLC Board on :	Spring 2028

### GLC Mission Statement

The GLC's mission is to develop active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

This will be achieved through:

- High quality teaching that deliberately develops competencies of curiosity, creativity, communication and critical-thinking;
- An inspiring and meaningful curriculum;
- The development of productive relationships by instilling the values of compassion, resilience, responsibility and aspiration to prepare our young people for learning and life;
- A commitment to the wellbeing of our staff;
- A culture of professional generosity, collaboration, challenge and support throughout the GLC;
- The development of effective external partnerships for the benefit and wellbeing of our community.

### Equalities Statement

The GLC's commitment to equality is enshrined in our mission statement to develop 'active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community'.

We are a vibrant, innovative and successful organisation: we work hard to be the place of choice to work and to learn. Across the 5 academies of the GLC, we pledge that everyone enjoys an equality of opportunity. We work tirelessly to ensure that individual characteristics including age, ethnicity, socio-economic background, academic ability, disability, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation are not discriminated against in any way. We create inclusive environments characterised by mutual respect where difference is celebrated.

# Elective Home Education Policy

## Introduction

The GLC is committed to ensuring that all young people receive a high quality education that enables them to reach their full potential and lead fulfilling lives, regardless of background, within a safe and supportive environment.

Whilst educating children at home can work well when it is a positive choice and carried out with a proper regard for the needs of the child, the view of this trust is that remaining in our academies would secure more in depth learning and development of the child.

No parent should feel pressured to start educating their child at home as this will only usually lead to more difficulties, so there must be a clear protocol for parents to seek additional support for their child to remain on roll within the trust.

## What is elective home education [EHE]?

Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time. This is different to education provided by a local authority other than at a school, for example for children who are too ill to attend school.

Parents may choose to engage private tutors or other adults, or online tuition, to assist in providing a suitable education, but there is no requirement to do so. There are other settings which may be used, not just the family home. Such settings may well not be regulated in any way so there is no external assurance that they comply with basic standards, such as proper vetting of staff and safeguarding children.

Parents, rather than the state or academy, are responsible for ensuring that their child, if he or she is of compulsory school age, is properly educated. Despite the term 'compulsory school age', education does not have to be undertaken through attendance at school, even though the parents of any child living in England can request a state-funded school place and the local authority is obliged to find one - or make alternative arrangements for the education of a child.

There is no legislation that deals with home education as a specific approach. However, Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 provides that:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable:

- (a) To his age, ability and aptitude; and
- (b) To any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Elective home education is a form of 'education otherwise than at school' and this piece of legislation is the basis for the obligations of parents. It is also the starting point for local authorities' involvement.

## Common reasons for requesting Elective Home Education

Parents may consider educating their child at home for a variety of reasons, including:

- Ideological or philosophical views which you feel would be better promoted through education at home;

- Religious or cultural beliefs;
- Dissatisfaction with the school system;
- Distance to a local school;
- Bullying concerns;
- As a short term intervention for a specific reason;
- A child's unwillingness or inability to attend school;
- Special educational needs not being met within the school system;
- Health reasons, particularly mental health.

It is a vital part of the process that parents inform the trust of their reasons for making the decision to request Elective Home Education. This allows conversations between home and school about possible support or other options that may enable the child to remain on roll.

Parents will be asked to bear in mind that if a child is removed from a school in order to educate at home, and then changes their mind, there is no guarantee that a place would still be available at the school. A new application would need to be made in the usual way, direct to the school. If a place is not available at the child's former school, the local authority would be responsible to find a state school place, or arrange for education to be provided otherwise than at school.

Parents considering Elective Home Education will be asked to consider:

- (a) The reasons for choosing to educate their child at home;
- (b) The views and wishes of the child;
- (c) Whether they have the time, resources and ability to provide suitable education;
- (d) Whether the home is suitable for undertaking teaching and learning in terms of noise, space and the general environment;
- (e) Whether additional or alternative support is available to continue education in the event of illness or other circumstances;
- (f) Opportunities for social interaction, cultural experiences, creative activities and physical exercise to support the child's development;
- (g) The anticipated duration of the home education arrangement.

### **Process for requesting Elective Home Education**

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from school in order to provide Elective Home Education must submit a written request [letter or email] that clearly includes:

- Name[s] of parent[s] and full home address;
- Name and date of birth of the child;
- The date of the request;
- A clear statement that the request relates to **"Elective Home Education"**;
- The reason for requesting Elective Home Education;
- The date from which the arrangement is intended to begin.

The request should be submitted to the Head of School.

Upon receipt of the request, the school will contact the parent to arrange a meeting to discuss the decision and explore whether additional support or alternative arrangements could enable the pupil to remain in school.

If, following this discussion, the parent wishes to proceed with the Elective Home Education, the Head of School will issue a formal letter confirming the discussion and the parent's decision. If the parent declines to attend a meeting, this will also be noted in the letter.

Following this stage, the request and the school's letter will be passed to the GLC Education Welfare Officer. The officer will contact the parent to ensure that all reasonable options to support the pupil remaining within the Trust have been considered.

If the parent confirms that they wish to proceed, the referral will be completed electronically and submitted to the GLC Chief Executive Officer for approval prior to submission to Thurrock Council.

**Further information**

Parents who would like to discuss Elective Home Education may contact:

Dominic Davison  
GLC Group Education Welfare Officer  
[dominic.davison@theglc.org.uk](mailto:dominic.davison@theglc.org.uk)

Further information is also available from Thurrock Council:  
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/home-education/getting-started>

**Elective Home Education - Checklist**

**Name of Pupil & Year Group** .....

**Academy** .....

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. The parental request clearly states 'Elective Home Education'    | Yes/No |
| 2. The Head of School is aware and letter sent to parent            | Yes/No |
| 3. A meeting has been held with the parent to discuss their request | Yes/No |
| 4. Reasons for the request have been confirmed                      | Yes/No |
| 5. All alternative options have been explored with the parent       | Yes/No |
| 6. All contact in relation to EHE is logged on CPOMS                | Yes/No |
| 7. EHE referral has been fully completed [to be attached]           | Yes/No |

If no has been recorded for any of the above, please provide details below:

Approval to submit referral to LA.....

Additional information needed [see below]