

Examination Entry for EHE candidates: Hampshire Model October 2013

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<http://edyourself.org/hampshiremodelexams.pdf> via
<http://edyourself.org/articles/allpartygrouphomeeducation.php>

Vision

Hampshire's Children's Trust embraces a 'whatever it takes' philosophy. We want all our children and young people to do well and, within the resource we have available to us we will search for those strategies and activities that make sure that they do. If what we are doing fails to make the difference, we will try something else with the use of developing evidence. This is as true in educational settings as within communities. We are ambitious for our children and young people; we challenge expectations where they are too low and we support them all to succeed

Hampshire Children and Young Persons Plan 2012-2015

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is committed to **all** Hampshire Children. It therefore follows that parents who choose to Electively Home Educate (EHE) receive broad support within from HCC to achieve this vision.

The Hampshire offer includes:

- registration with HCC that will trigger information around contacts and EHE groups
- the offer of a consultant visit
- links to the website that is updated on a regular basis
- exam entry funding for Year 11 students up to a maximum of 5 GCSE's or equivalent
- telephone guidance from local offices

Examinations

- HCC through the Education and Inclusion Service (EIS) will pay for public examinations for Year 11 pupils, subject to criteria being met, for Hampshire children who are EHE.
- To support EHE two public examination centres have been identified by HCC to facilitate examination entries – one is an Education Centre (Pupil Referral Unit) in the South East of the county and the second is a school in the North West. Both these centres were brokered by Area Strategic Managers (ASM) who have built on excellent relationships with school headteachers to secure the arrangement.

- The two centres have agreed to take EHE pupils as private candidates and other than direct costs (examination fee to boards and invigilation) do not charge an administration fee. This may change in the future dependent upon school policy and government direction.
- HCC are currently looking for additional centres as following advice from schools a maximum of 25 EHE pupils is considered manageable.
- It is not practical for Examination centres (schools) to manage a volume of separate enquires from EHE parents but are happy to work through a nominated EHE coordinator from the EHE community.
- All correspondence will be between the parent community EHE coordinator and the examination officer; the role of the EHE parent who manages discrete EHE provision is critical. The parent EHE coordinator liaises with EHE parents and provides the necessary data and documentation, this is a voluntary arrangement. The ASM's remain available for consultation and informal advice and support to both EHE community coordinators and school centres.
- The examination process is not always straightforward and whilst schools are designed for children in volume EHE parents do not always understand or appreciate how school systems operate. Equally schools are not used to dealing with comparatively small numbers of private candidates. This can cause difficulties, however as relationships mature and grow then these issues can be resolved often with the support of LA officers.
- HCC are currently exploring an alternative model whereby the two established EHE groups meet examination board criteria to become an examination centre.

Other LA support

- We encourage parents to register with the LA so we can signpost them to our website and to EHE support groups. The local offices offer telephone support on a range of EHE matters to both schools and parents. By registering we can offer a consultant visit that is focused on the pupil and providing broad advice and guidance.
- The two Area Strategic Managers meet half termly with EHE groups across the county and respond to requests and areas of mutual interest.
- Whilst HCC seek to support positively parents who EHE and are registered there will always remain significant safeguarding concerns where the LA either do not know of the family or the family refuse to engage