

EOTAS - EDUCATION OTHERWISE THAN AT SCHOOL

This fact sheet has been written by parent carers for parent carers



What is EOTAS?

EOTAS (Education Otherwise Than at School) is educational provision that meets the needs of children and young people who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend school. There are different kinds of EOTAS which we explain below.

Why do some children and young people need EOTAS?

Some children and young people may have an illness or injury that makes them unable to attend school. If this period lasts longer than 15 school days and the child is aged five to 16, the local authority must provide alternative education for them either at home or in their healthcare setting. This is a common form of EOTAS. This can include children with mental health issues. There will need to be medical evidence of the ill-health.

Some children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) may be unable to attend school because of their particular needs. These children may also be entitled to EOTAS, if they have an Education, Health and Care plan and the local authority agree that EOTAS is necessary for their education.

What does EOTAS look like?

EOTAS provision could include:

- online schooling
- tuition at home
- tuition or training at a specialist centre
- hospital schooling
- therapeutic interventions
- life skills training, including travel training.

What's the difference between EOTAS and Elective Home Education?

Parents can choose to educate their children from home, whether or not they have special educational needs or a disability (SEND). This is called **Elective Home Education (EHE)**. EHE means families make their own arrangements and assume complete responsibility for their child's education. If a child has an EHC plan and you choose to electively home educate them, the local authority no longer has a legal duty to make any special educational provision set out in the EHC plan, because you are deemed to be making your own suitable alternative arrangements.

If, however, the local authority considers school or college to be inappropriate for a child or young person with an EHC plan, they can arrange for your child's special educational provision to be delivered somewhere other than in a school, college or early years setting, which is called **Education Otherwise than at School** or **EOTAS**. With EOTAS, the local authority remains legally responsible for organising and funding your child's special education provision.





What makes an education setting 'inappropriate'?

EOTAS is only possible where a local authority is satisfied that it would be 'inappropriate' for a child or young person's special educational provision to be made in a school. To meet this test, you need to demonstrate that education in a school setting would be inappropriate. This may mean providing evidence in the form of reports, meeting notes, letters, emails, medical records, etc.

All a child or young person's circumstances must be looked at including their background and medical history; their particular educational needs; the facilities that can be provided by a school; the facilities that could be provided other than in a school; the comparative cost of the possible alternatives to the child's educational provision; the child's reaction to education provisions, either at a school or elsewhere; the parents' wishes and any other circumstances.

EOTAS and EHC plans

Section F of a child or young person's EHC plan specifies the special educational provision which will be delivered. Parent carers or young people need to ensure that full details of the agreed EOTAS package are described in section F of the plan.

If your local authority agrees that a school setting is inappropriate, you can leave section I of the EHC plan (the setting) blank. However, if the local authority and yourselves agree that the best provision is a mixture of EOTAS and education in a school setting, they may name that particular setting, or type of setting, in section I of the EHC Plan. Just ensure that full details of any provision not being delivered at the school setting is specified within **Section F** of the EHC Plan.

EOTAS and SEND support

If your child or young person does not have an EHC plan and you feel that their current educational placement is not working for them or is in danger of breaking down, you should speak to the school or setting about reviewing their SEND support. For more information see our factsheet 'SEN Support in school'.

If things do not improve you could ask the local authority for an EHC needs assessment. This is a chance to identify all your child or young person's needs and the support that they may need to learn. It might be, that with the right support, your child or young person can continue their education in their current setting. Alternatively, they may need special educational provision which could be provided other than at school (EOTAS). To find out more see our factsheet 'EHC assessments and plans'.

Ask about

- **Amaze SENDIASS** provides information, advice and support to families with children and young people with SEND up to 25 in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. Our SENDIASS advisers can talk through any issues around SEND education. Call **01273 772289**, email sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk or visit <https://amazesussex.org.uk>
- **East Sussex County Council services**
ISEND Teaching and Learning Provision (TLP) - Education for children too ill for school in East Sussex. Visit <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/attendance-behaviour/too-sick>



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ISEND Local Offer - services and support for children with SEND <https://localoffer.eastsussex.gov.uk/send-information-and-services/isend/isend-services/>

Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service (ESBAS) - part of ISEND, they offer support with attendance and behaviour. <https://1space.eastsussex.gov.uk/Services/4850>

Elective Home Education (East Sussex) - <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/attendance-behaviour/out-of-school-education>

- **Brighton & Hove City Council services**

Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) - Education for children too ill for school in Brighton & Hove <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/absent-school/how-we-help-children-who-are-too-ill-go-school>

BHISS (Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service) - works with school settings to support children and young people with SEND and their families <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/directories/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-support/brighton-hove-inclusion-support>

Elective Home Education - see <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/home-education/how-educate-your-child-home>

Further reading and useful links

- **Amaze SENDIASS** - see our companion fact sheets about *Emotionally-based school avoidance*, *Elective home education*, *SEN support in school* and *EHC needs assessments and plans* at <https://amazesussex.org.uk/resources/fact-sheets/>
- **Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)**- East Sussex ISEND download for parent carers <https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/9150/ebsa-guidance-for-parent-carers-and-children-and-young-people-v1.pdf>
- **IPSEA advice** - <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/getting-temporary-education-put-in-place>
- **Not Fine In School** – support information for families with a child facing barriers to school attendance <https://notfineinschool.co.uk/>
- **NHS advice for parents** on helping their child's mental health <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>
- **Place2Be** - online parenting advice from child mental health experts) <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>
- **Special Needs Jungle** - <https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/eotas-education-otherwise-than-at-school-what-is-it-and-can-i-get-it>
- **Sussex CAMHS** - parent page <https://sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/help-support/parents-carers/>

