

Cookies on Explore Education Statistics

We use some essential cookies to make this service work.

We'd also like to use analytics cookies so we can understand how you use the service and make improvements.

[Accept analytics cookies](#)

[Reject analytics cookies](#)

[View cookies](#)



Explore education statistics

Shape the future of Explore education statistics

[Close](#)

[Share your feedback to help us improve this service \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Beta This is a new service – your [feedback \(opens in new tab\)](#) will help us to improve it.

[Home](#) ▾ [Find statistics and data](#) ▾ [Elective home education](#)

Autumn term 2025/26

Elective home education

This is the latest release

Published 15 January 2026

Release type [Official statistics in development](#)

Receive updates [Sign up for email alerts](#)

Produced by [Department for Education](#)

Quick links

[Download all data \(zip\)](#)

[Release contents](#)

[Explore data](#)

[Help and support](#)

Related information

This publication provides data reported by local authorities on children of [compulsory school age \(opens in new tab\)](#) in elective home education (EHE) in England.

EHE is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school full-time.

EHE is different to Education provided by a local authority Otherwise Than At a School (EOTAS) - for example, tuition for children who are too ill to attend school. Such children are not counted in these figures. EHE is also different to children missing education (CME) who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. A separate [release has been published relating to CME](#).

This release is published as **official statistics in development**, which means that these statistics are undergoing evaluation for quality and user need. The data collection became mandatory in autumn 2024, as a relatively new collection we expect the quality of the data returns to continue to improve over time as the collection becomes established. We also welcome feedback on these statistics via the details in the “contact us” section below.

This publication is updated annually, the next release in winter 2026 will include termly data collected up to autumn 2026.

[Data guidance](#)

[Pre-release access list](#)

[Contact us](#)

Releases in this series

▶ [View releases \(3\)](#)

Methodologies

[Elective home education](#)

Related pages

[Children missing education statistics](#)

[Elective home education guidance](#)

Headline facts and figures - 2025/26

Number of EHE children on census date

126,000

autumn term 2025/26

► What is EHE?

- 126,000 children in elective home education (EHE) on census date in autumn 2025. In the previous autumn term, there were 111,700 children electively home educated.
- 175,900 children were EHE at any point during the 2024/25 academic year. Across the previous academic year there were 153,300 children in EHE.

As a relatively new data collection, changes over time are likely to be in part due to improvements in data quality. For further information on data quality please see the methodology.

Explore data and files used in this release

[View or create your own tables](#) ↗

View tables that we have built for you, or create your own tables from open data using our table tool

[Data catalogue](#) ↗

Browse and download open data files from this release in our data catalogue

[Data guidance](#) ↗

Learn more about the data files used in this release using our online guidance

[Download all data \(ZIP\)](#)

Download all data available in this release

as a compressed ZIP file

Additional supporting files

[Hide](#)

All supporting files from this release are listed for individual download below:

[Local authority support to EHE children and their families \(csv, 27 Kb\)](#)

Includes responses to the question - What support does your local authority offer to EHE children and their families?

[Back to top](#)

[Hide all sections](#)

Elective home education on census days

[Hide](#)

The number of children in EHE increased compared to the previous autumn term

Local authorities reported 126,000 children in elective home education on census day in autumn 2025. This includes children of [compulsory school age \(opens in new tab\)](#) who are resident in the local authority and the local authority are aware of being electively home educated on census date.

EHE increased by an estimated 14,300 in autumn 2025/26, compared to the previous autumn term. However, EHE decreased by 11,200 compared to summer term 2024/25. The number of EHE children has increased each autumn since the start of the

data collection and the seasonal decrease from the summer term is as expected as some EHE children obtain their school preference, and the cohort of previous year 11 children cease to be of compulsory school age. (The proportion of local authorities providing data reached 100% for the first time in summer 2024, previous term estimates include adjustments made for non-response.)

The rate of EHE was 1.5% of the population of comparable ages (based on ONS [mid-year population estimates \(opens in new tab\)](#) for children aged 5 to 16 years).

As this is a relatively new data collection, which first became mandatory in autumn 2024, changes over time are likely to be in part due to improvements in data quality. For further information on data quality please see the methodology.



Some rows and columns are not shown in this table as the data does not exist in the underlying file.

► Export options

Elective home education at census date, autumn term 2023/24 to autumn term 2025/26

	2023/24 Autumn term	2023/24 Spring term	2023/24 Summer term	2024/25 Autumn term	2024/25 Spring term	2024/25 Summer term
Number of EHE children on census date	92,000	103,500	117,900	111,700	123,300	137,200
Rate of EHE children on census day by population	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. Local authority response rates to the data collection vary by census date. To account for non-response, where required national and regional figures have been updated based on local authority pupil populations.
2. A figure that rounds to 0, but is not 0 is denoted by 'low', 'x' represents not available and 'z' is not applicable.

Source: EHE and CME census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

[Explore data](#)

Mental health and philosophy or preference remained the most reported reasons for EHE

The table below provides the primary reason why a pupil was EHE. Of those reasons known or provided, the most reported in autumn 2025 were 'mental health' (16%) and 'philosophical or preferential reasons' (12%).

Of the primary reasons given, almost 3 in 10 continued to be recorded under 'unknown to the local authority' or 'parent did not provide a reason'.

Two new primary reasons for EHE were introduced from autumn 2025 and appear in the table below, a low proportion of local authorities were able to report against the new reasons in this introductory term.



Some rows and columns are not shown in this table as the data does not exist in the underlying file.

► Export options

Elective home education at census date by reason, autumn term 2024/25 to autumn term 2025/26

		2024/25 Autumn term	2024/25 Spring term	2024/25 Summer term	2025/26 Autumn term
Reason	Mental health	14%	15%	17%	16%
	Philosophical or preferential	14%	13%	12%	12%
	Lifestyle	9%	8%	8%	9%
	School dissatisfaction	7%	7%	8%	8%

general

School dissatisfaction SEND	3%	3%	3%	4%
School dissatisfaction bullying	3%	3%	3%	3%
Did not get school preference	2%	2%	2%	2%
Physical health	2%	2%	2%	2%
Difficulty accessing suitable school place	1%	1%	1%	1%
Health concerns related to COVID19	1%	1%	1%	1%
Religious	1%	1%	1%	1%
Risk of school exclusion	1%	1%	1%	1%
Did not apply for school place at compulsory school age	z	z	z	low
Offered school place but not yet accepted	z	z	z	low
Permanent exclusion	low	low	low	low
School suggestion	low	low	low	low

Other	11%	12%	12%	11%
No reason given	12%	11%	11%	12%
Unknown	19%	18%	17%	17%

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. Local authority response rates to the data collection vary by census date. To account for non-response, where required national and regional figures have been updated based on local authority pupil populations.
2. A figure that rounds to 0, but is not 0 is denoted by 'low', 'x' represents not available and 'z' is not applicable.

[Show 1 more footnote](#)

Source: EHE and CME census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

[Explore data](#)

EHE by characteristic

The proportion of children in EHE varies by characteristics. The figures below relate to autumn 2025 but trends remain similar to previous years.

Sex

52% of EHE children were reported as female and 48% of EHE children were reported

as male (less than 1% were unknown). This compares to 49% of the overall school population as female and 51% male as at January 2025.

Year group

The number of EHE children increased as the expected year group increased, from 3% expected to be in year group 1 to 19% expected to be in year group 11. Over a third of EHE children were expected to be in either year groups 10 or 11.

Ethnicity

67% of EHE were of White ethnicity, 6% were of Mixed ethnicity, 4% were of Asian ethnicity, 2% were of Black ethnicity and 2% other ethnicity. The remaining 18% had refused to provide their ethnicity or were unknown. This compares to the overall school population of 68% White ethnicity, 7% Mixed ethnicity, 14% Asian ethnicity, 6% Black ethnicity and 3% other ethnicity, with 2% unclassified.

Special educational needs (SEN) ? *

16% of EHE children had an additional requirement of SEN support, while 7% of EHE children had an education, health and care plan. This compares with 14% and 5% respectively for the overall school population.

Children in need *

1% of EHE children were recorded as a child in need, <0.5% were recorded as having a child protection plan and <0.5% were a looked after child. This compares with 3% children in need, 0.4% having a child protection plan and 0.7% looked after children amongst the overall child population.

*SEN provision and Child in need status was as known to the local authority as at the census day and therefore may exclude children who previously held these additional requirements and those for whom these requirements were not known.

The following characteristic was collected for the first time in autumn 2025 and may be under-reported in this first collection.

English as an additional language

4% of EHE had a first language other than English. This compares to 21% of the school population.

EHE by local authority

The number and rate of elective home education varies across local authorities. Counts will vary depending on the local population, which may change over time; for example inward migration may lead to higher numbers of EHE at the start of a school year as parents await their preferred school place and EHE in the meantime. High or low counts should not be used as a reflection of 'good' or 'bad' practice.

[Chart](#)

[Table](#)



Some rows and columns are not shown in this table as the data does not exist in the underlying file.

► [Export options](#)

Rate of EHE at census date by local authority, autumn term 2025/26

		2025/26 Autumn term
North East	County Durham	1.9%
	Darlington	2.6%
	Gateshead	1.3%
	Hartlepool	1.8%
	Middlesbrough	1.2%
	Newcastle upon Tyne	1.2%
	North Tyneside	0.9%

Northumberland	1.3%
Redcar and Cleveland	1.8%
South Tyneside	1.6%
Stockton-on-Tees	1.5%
Sunderland	1.5%

North West

Blackburn with Darwen	1.4%
Blackpool	3.1%
Bolton	1.3%
Bury	1.1%
Cheshire East	1.3%
Cheshire West and Chester	1.3%
Cumberland	1.7%
Halton	1.3%
Knowsley	1.3%
Lancashire	1.6%
Liverpool	1.4%
Manchester	1.0%
Oldham	0.9%
Rochdale	1.3%
Salford	1.1%
Sefton	1.1%

	St. Helens	1.8%
	Stockport	1.1%
	Tameside	1.1%
	Trafford	0.6%
	Warrington	1.0%
	Westmorland and Furness	1.3%
	Wigan	1.4%
	Wirral	1.1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	Barnsley	2.3%
	Bradford	1.4%
	Calderdale	2.0%
	Doncaster	2.5%
	East Riding of Yorkshire	1.7%
	Kingston upon Hull, City of	1.9%
	Kirklees	1.3%
	Leeds	1.3%
	North East Lincolnshire	1.8%
	North Lincolnshire	1.7%
	North Yorkshire	1.7%
	Rotherham	1.8%
	Sheffield	1.0%
	Wakefield	1.0%

Warrington	1.3%
-------------------	------

York	1.1%
-------------	------

East Midlands	Derby	1.7%
----------------------	--------------	------

Derbyshire	1.8%
-------------------	------

Leicester	1.4%
------------------	------

Leicestershire	1.2%
-----------------------	------

Lincolnshire	1.6%
---------------------	------

North Northamptonshire	1.8%
-------------------------------	------

Nottingham	1.5%
-------------------	------

Nottinghamshire	1.7%
------------------------	------

Rutland	0.8%
----------------	------

West Northamptonshire	1.6%
------------------------------	------

West Midlands	Birmingham	1.4%
----------------------	-------------------	------

Coventry	1.1%
-----------------	------

Dudley	1.8%
---------------	------

Herefordshire, County of	1.7%
---------------------------------	------

Sandwell	1.5%
-----------------	------

Shropshire	1.7%
-------------------	------

Solihull	1.3%
-----------------	------

Staffordshire	1.4%
----------------------	------

Stoke-on-Trent	1.5%
-----------------------	------

Telford and Wrekin	2.0%
---------------------------	------

	Walsall	1.4%
	Warwickshire	1.7%
	Wolverhampton	1.3%
	Worcestershire	1.5%
East of England	Bedford	1.7%
	Cambridgeshire	1.8%
	Central Bedfordshire	1.6%
	Essex	1.8%
	Hertfordshire	1.0%
	Luton	0.9%
	Norfolk	2.1%
	Peterborough	2.0%
	Southend-on-Sea	2.5%
	Suffolk	1.6%
	Thurrock	1.7%
South East	Bracknell Forest	1.2%
	Brighton and Hove	1.5%
	Buckinghamshire	1.3%
	East Sussex	2.7%
	Hampshire	1.4%
	Isle of Wight	4.1%

	Kent	1.9%
	Medway	2.4%
	Milton Keynes	1.2%
	Oxfordshire	1.3%
	Portsmouth	0.9%
	Reading	1.4%
	Slough	1.4%
	Southampton	1.8%
	Surrey	1.3%
	West Berkshire	1.1%
	West Sussex	1.7%
	Windsor and Maidenhead	1.2%
	Wokingham	1.0%
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	1.0%
	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	1.6%
	Bristol, City of	1.2%
	Cornwall	2.9%
	Devon	2.7%
	Dorset	1.8%
	Gloucestershire	2.1%

Isles of Scilly	1.3%
North Somerset	1.3%
Plymouth	2.0%
Somerset	2.9%
South Gloucestershire	1.4%
Swindon	1.3%
Torbay	2.8%
Wiltshire	1.5%

Inner London

Camden	1.2%
City of London	low
Hackney	0.6%
Hammersmith and Fulham	1.0%
Haringey	0.9%
Islington	1.4%
Kensington and Chelsea	0.7%
Lambeth	0.8%
Lewisham	1.2%
Newham	1.1%
Southwark	1.0%
Tower Hamlets	0.9%
Wandsworth	low

	Westminster	1.0%
Outer London	Barking and Dagenham	1.3%
	Barnet	0.6%
	Bexley	1.1%
	Brent	0.9%
	Bromley	1.0%
	Croydon	1.2%
	Ealing	1.2%
	Enfield	1.1%
	Greenwich	1.6%
	Harrow	0.8%
	Havering	1.2%
	Hillingdon	1.0%
	Hounslow	1.1%
	Kingston upon Thames	1.0%
	Merton	0.7%
	Redbridge	0.7%
Richmond upon Thames	0.5%	
Sutton	0.8%	
Waltham Forest	1.1%	

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. Local authority response rates to the data collection vary by census date. To account for non-response, where required national and regional figures have been updated based on local authority pupil populations.
2. A figure that rounds to 0, but is not 0 is denoted by 'low', 'x' represents not available and 'z' is not applicable.

Source: EHE and CME census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

[Explore data](#)

[Back to top](#)

Elective home education – at any point during the previous academic year

 [Hide](#)

Number of EHE during the year continued to increase

In autumn 2025 data was also collected on the number of children reported by local authorities as being EHE at any point during the previous academic year. Where a child was reported as EHE more than once, they are only recorded once. These are cumulative counts of all children reported by local authorities as EHE at some point in the academic year and are not directly comparable to the point in time figures

presented as at census day each term.

Local authorities identified 175,900 EHE children, at any point during the 2024/25 academic year, increasing from 153,300 in 2023/24 and an estimated 126,100 in 2022/23.

As this is a relatively new data collection, which first became mandatory in autumn 2024, changes over time are likely to be in part due to improvements in data quality. For further information on data quality please see the methodology.

► Export options

Elective home education at any point in the academic year, 2021/22 to 2024/25

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of EHE children at any point during the year	116,300	126,100	153,300	175,900

[Show full screen table](#)

[Data symbols](#) 

Footnotes

1. Local authority response rates to the data collection vary by census date. To account for non-response, where required national and regional figures have been updated based on local authority pupil populations.
2. A figure that rounds to 0, but is not 0 is denoted by 'low', 'x' represents not available and 'z' is not applicable.

Source: EHE and CME census

Explore and edit this data online

Use our table tool to explore this data.

[Explore data](#)

There were 78,000 children reported as starting in EHE during the 2024/25 academic year, increasing from 71,500 during 2023/24. There were 28,100 EHE children who returned to a school setting during the 2024/25 academic year, increasing from an estimated 21,500 in 2023/24.

The table below shows, of those pupils who started EHE during the academic year, the previous school type attended by those pupils. The largest proportion of children in EHE had previously been in academies. This is reflective of the fact that a [large proportion of secondary schools are academies](#) and that a higher proportion of older children are EHE.

Previous school type for children who started elective home education during 2024/25

School type	2024/25
Academy	49%
Local authority maintained	23%
Home educated outside the local authority	2%
Independent	2%
Free school	2%
None (previously not of compulsory school age)	2%
Early years	low
Pupil referral unit	1%
Alternative provision	low
Special	low
Elsewhere/unknown	19%

Footnotes

1. Local authority response rates to the data collection vary by census date. To account for non-response, where required national and regional figures have been updated based on local authority pupil populations.

2. A figure that rounds to 0, but is not 0 is denoted by 'low', 'x' represents not available and 'z' is not applicable.

Source: EHE and CME census

[Back to top](#)

Section 437(1) notices and school attendance orders

[Hide](#)

A section 437(1) notice is issued by a local authority in advance of a school attendance order. Where it appears to the local authority that a child of compulsory school age is not receiving a suitable education, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise, then they must begin procedures for issuing a school attendance order (under [section 437 of the Education Act 1996 \(opens in new tab\)](#)). The order will require the child's parents to register their child at a named school. If they fail to comply with the order the parent can be prosecuted.

In the 2024/25 academic year, an estimated 7,400 section 437(1) notices were issued, an increase of around 6% from the previous academic year. An estimated 2,500 school attendance orders were issued and 600 school attendance orders revoked in this period, both an increase from the previous year estimates. School attendance orders may be revoked because local authorities are able to conclude that the child is receiving suitable education, a court acquits a parent who had been prosecuted for breaching a school attendance order, the local authority applies for an education supervision order, or the child becomes no longer of compulsory school age.

Usage of section 437(1) notices and school attendance orders varied across the country. 22 local authorities reported issuing no section 437(1) notices (down from 30 local authorities the previous year) whilst 38 local authorities reported issuing no school attendance orders (down from 54).

Help and support

Methodology

Find out how and why we collect, process and publish these statistics.

[Elective home education](#)

Official statistics in development

These statistics are undergoing a development. They have been developed under the guidance of the Head of Profession for Statistics and published to involve users and stakeholders at an early stage in assessing their suitability and quality.

They have been produced as far as possible in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that these statistics are:

- managed impartially and objectively in the public interest
- meet identified user needs
- produced according to sound methods
- well explained and readily accessible

Find out more about the standards we follow to produce these statistics through our [Standards for official statistics published by DfE guidance \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Contact us

If you have a specific enquiry about Elective home education statistics and data:

Attendance and exclusions statistics team

Email: schools.statistics@education.gov.uk

Contact name: Pauline Potts

Press office

If you have a media enquiry:

Telephone: 020 7783 8300

Public enquiries

If you have a general enquiry about the Department for Education (DfE) or education:

Telephone: 037 0000 2288

Opening times:

Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays)

[Print this page](#)

Is this page useful?

Yes	No
-----	----

[Report a problem with this page](#)



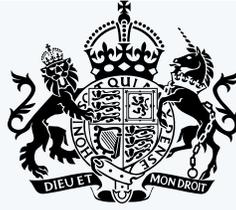
[Cookies](#) [Privacy notice](#) [Contact us](#) [Accessibility statement](#) [Glossary](#) [Help and support](#)

This service is maintained by the [Department for Education](#)

Our statistical practice is regulated by the [Office for Statistics Regulation \(OSR\)](#)

OGL All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated

Build: 20260109.25



© Crown copyright