



Education other than in a school (EOTIS)

Information for Parent Carers

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What is EOTIS?

Education Other Than in School (EOTIS) also known as EOTAS is when a child receives their education somewhere other than a school.

EOTIS can only be agreed by your local authority as part of an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment, a reassessment, or an annual review of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

If EOTIS is agreed, your child will not be on the roll of a school. Instead, their education and support may take place at home or in another setting that is not a registered school.

The support your child needs must be clearly written in Section F of their EHCP. The local authority has a legal duty to arrange and pay for the support that is written in Section F.

How is a decision about EOTIS made?

The local authority must listen to and consider the views of Parent Carers and children. However, they also need evidence to show that Education Other Than in School (EOTIS) is the right option.

Information and evidence will usually be gathered as part of:

- an EHC needs assessment
- a reassessment of needs
- an annual review of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

To decide whether EOTIS or EOTIC is needed, the local authority will look at whether your child or young person's needs can be appropriately supported in a nursery, school or post-16 setting.

They may ask for advice from professionals who know your child, such as:

- health professionals or clinicians
- educational psychologists
- social care professionals
- other members of multi-agency teams, such as the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) Panel.

The views of your child or young person and your family are an important part of this process.

Is this the same as Elective Home Education?

EOTIS is different from Elective Home Education (EHE).

With Education Other Than in School (EOTIS), the local authority agrees that your child should receive their education somewhere other than a school. If your child has an EHCP, the local authority remains responsible for arranging and paying for the support written in Section F of the plan.

Elective Home Education (EHE) is when parents choose to educate their child at home. If you decide to home educate, you become responsible for providing a suitable education, including meeting your child's special educational needs. If your child has an EHCP, the local authority is not usually responsible for arranging or funding the support in Section F while you are electively home educating.

What does the law say?

The law allows a local authority to arrange Education Other Than in School (EOTIS) if it decides that this is the right option for a child.

Before making this decision, the local authority must:

- be satisfied that it would be inappropriate for the child's special educational provision to be delivered in a school, post-16 setting or early years setting
- consider the evidence about the child's needs
- consult with the child's parents or the young person before making a decision.

This means that EOTIS is usually only agreed when there is evidence that a child's needs cannot be appropriately met in a school or other education setting.

Legal reference: Section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014 allows local authorities to arrange special educational provision outside a school, post-16 setting or early years setting where they are satisfied that education in one of those settings would be inappropriate, following consultation with the child's parents or the young person.

How does the local authority decide if EOTIS is appropriate?

A court case (TM v London Borough of Hounslow) confirmed that local authorities must carefully consider whether a school would be a suitable place for a child or young person to receive their education. They must look at each child's individual circumstances before making a decision.

When deciding whether Education Other Than in School (EOTIS) is appropriate, the local authority may consider things such as:

- your child's medical history and health needs
- your child's special educational needs
- any involvement from social care or safeguarding concerns
- the support and facilities that could be provided in a school
- the support and facilities that could be provided outside a school
- how your child has responded to education in different settings
- the cost of the different options
- your views and wishes as a parent carer, or the views of the child where appropriate.

Every decision should be based on the individual child or young person's needs and circumstances.

Further Reading



The leading charity in the field of SEND law in England



Educated other than in school/college (EOTIS/EOTIC)



Non-school Alternative Provision Directory



The process in Shropshire

1. You ask for EOTIS.
2. You can request Education Other Than in School (EOTIS) as part of an EHC needs assessment, reassessment or annual review.
3. The local authority considers your request.
4. Your EHCP Case Officer will gather information from you, your child or young person, and relevant professionals such as education, health and social care. They will look at all the evidence before making a recommendation.
5. A decision is made.
6. If EOTIS is not agreed, the local authority will name a suitable type of school in the EHCP. You will have the right to appeal this decision.
7. If EOTIS is agreed, the local authority will work with you to arrange the agreed package of education and support.
8. Any education provider is checked for quality.
9. If education is provided outside a registered school, Shropshire Council carries out quality assurance checks to make sure the provider is suitable and meets expected standards.
10. The support is reviewed regularly.
11. The local authority will monitor your child's progress, review reports from providers, and hold an early annual review if there are concerns.
12. The EHCP is reviewed every year.
13. At each annual review, the local authority will consider whether EOTIS is still the right option for your child or young person.
14. Extra reviews happen when your child changes education stage.
15. Your child's EHCP must also be reviewed when they move between key stages of education (for example, from primary to secondary school or from secondary school to college) to make sure the support continues to meet their needs.



EOTIS/ EOTIC Policy
Shropshire Council

