



# Elective Home Education (EHE) End of Year Report 2022/23

September 2023



# EHE Statutory Guidance and Context

- “The government’s aim is to ensure all young people receive world-class education, which allows them to reach their potential and live a more fulfilled life, regardless of background. That education should be provided in a safe environment, whether at school or at home. Parents have a right to educate their children at home, and the government wants the many parents who do it well to be supported. They devote time, financial resources and dedication to the education of their children.
- Most parents who take up the weighty responsibility of home education do a great job, and many children benefit from being educated at home. Educating children at home works well when it is a positive, informed and dedicated choice. However, the past few years have seen a very significant increase in the number of children being educated at home, and there is considerable evidence that many of these children are not receiving a suitable education. There is a less well evidenced but increasing concern that some children educated at home may not be in safe environments.
- The department believes that although the primary responsibility for ensuring that children are properly educated belongs to parents, a local authority has a moral and social obligation to ensure that a child is safe and being suitably educated. If it is not clear that that is the case, the authority should act to remedy the position. This guidance is intended to help local authorities understand their existing powers, and their duties in relation to children who are being educated at home, and how those relate to the obligations of parents. It aims to enable local authorities to identify children not receiving a suitable education, and do something about it. The end result should be that every child is receiving a suitable education in a safe and appropriate setting, whether at home or in school. “
- [Elective home education: departmental guidance for local authorities](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))
- [More details is provided in Camden’s policy](#) which is in line with the EHE DfE statutory guidance (April 2019). New national guidance on EHE is expected in 2022/23.

# 2022-23 Data Analysis

## Sustained high number of EHE notifications following the peak in 2020/21

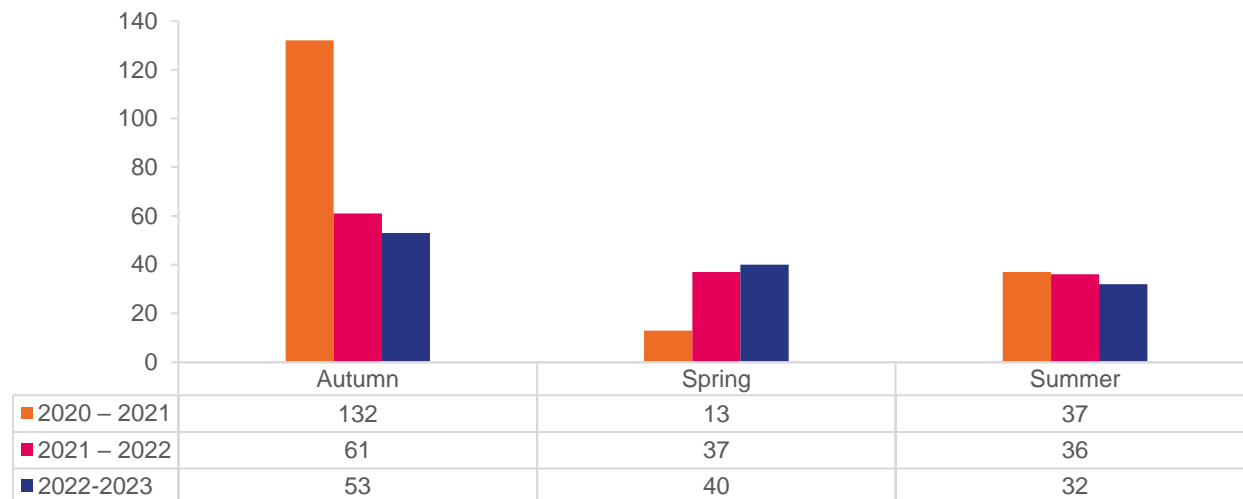
From 1 September 2022 – 22 July 2023

- 362 children were recorded as home educated, compared to 233 in 2019/20, which is an increase of 36% (and 348 in 2020/21).
- 354 children of statutory school age
- 125 new cases, compared to 75 in 2019/20 and 182 in 2020/21.
- 106 closed cases during 2022/23
- 3 cases found to be unsatisfactory and in need of a second visit or waiting for a school place.
- **27** cases found to be satisfactory and due for review in one year, **41** cases waiting update report from EHA (with 5 being RPA, so now closed) **27** no evidence (with 5 being RPA, so now closed) **31** Refused to engage with us. (with 6 being RPA so now closed). **14** sent a report in 2021 but no report for 2022. **72** cases due 1<sup>st</sup> report ( with 12 being RPA so now closed).  
.(does not include (**33**) reviews due from September to December 2023. (With 4 being RPA so now closed)
- 13 pupils with an EHCP
- No school attendance orders served on Home Educating families for the year.
- More information on EHE figures from 2016 is available on the Camden [Open Data](#) site.
- At the start of September 2023, there were 212 EHE pupils (10 have an EHCP)

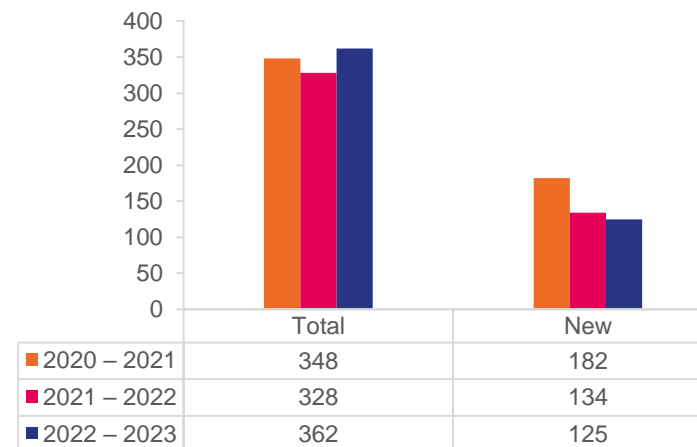
# Number of new EHE Notifications

A reduction in new referral relative to the high numbers in 2020/21, but overall, high number of total EHE notifications

EHE new notifications by term



EHE total notifications by year



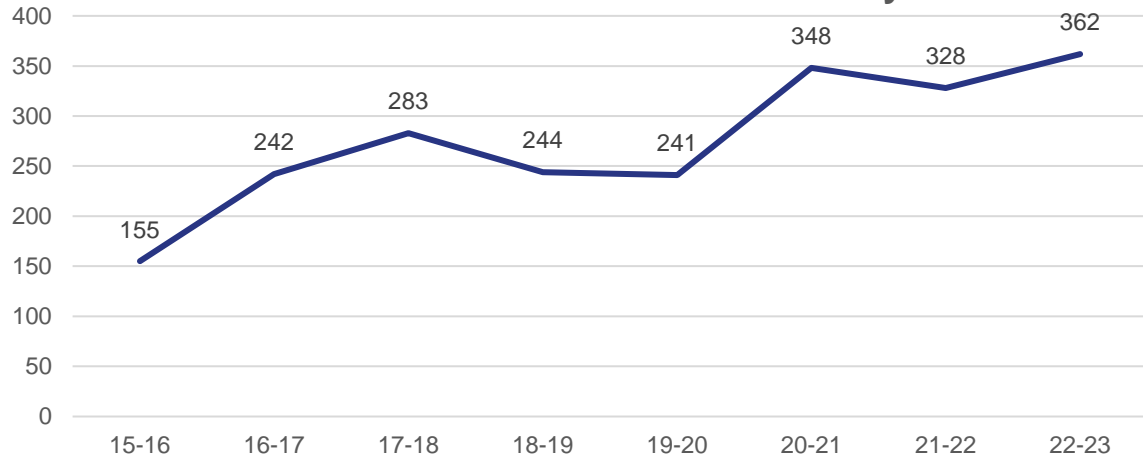
In 2022/23, there were 124 new EHE notifications.

- This was largely in line with 2021/22 and a further fall on 2020/21, when there were high numbers of EHE notifications linked to the ending of covid lockdowns and anxiety around attending school), though still represents an increase on other previous years.
  - As in previous years, the highest number of new notifications occur in the Autumn term, with 23 occurring in September alone).
- There were 362 total cases in 2022/23 (including new notifications, open cases and closed cases), which the highest number in the last three years.

# Number of EHE notifications

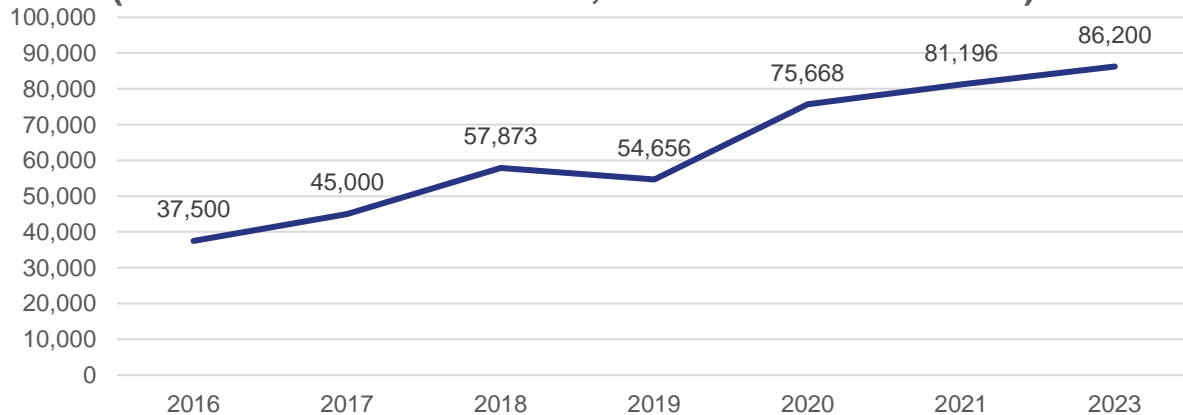
EHE referrals in Camden over last six years show an overall increase, especially in 2020/21 and 2021/22, similar to the national picture

Camden EHE total notifications - trend over year



- 2022-23 was the highest level of EHE notifications both new and existing cases in Camden in recent years.
- Data from the DfE’s first published number of EHE cases showed 80,900 cases in Autumn 2022 and the Spring 2023 Census showed 86,200 in Elective Home Education based on LA returns.
- LAs across London have reported a steady increase in the number of EHE pupils across the 2022-23

National number (ADCS estimates – 2016-21, DfE EHE Census - 2023)





# Reasons parents choose to EHE

Lifestyle choice is the largest reason in Camden last year, though there have been issues in reporting of reasons

- In 2022-23, there were a very high number of notifications where the parent didn't provide a reason, which makes comparisons to previous years more difficult.
- Lifestyle choice was the largest reason given.
- Short-term intervention for a particular reason is the second highest reason again.
- The categories are being extended in 2023/24, in line with new DfE reporting categories.
- The high proportion of parent who didn't provide a reason makes any analysis by reason very tricky. Every parent is asked to give a reason why they begin EHE, though this is a voluntary declaration.

	2020/21		2021/22		2022-23	
A child's unwillingness or inability to go to school, including school phobia	1	1%	3	2%	1	2%
As a short term intervention for a particular reason	14	8%	12	9%	7	11%
As a stop-gap whilst awaiting a place at a school other than the one allocated	13	7%	1	1%	0	-
Bullying of the child at school	2	1%	2	1%	4	7%
Health concerns - Covid-19	22	12%	2	1%	0	-
Did not get school preference					2	3%
Difficulty in accessing a school place					2	3%
Disputes with a school over the education, special needs or behaviour of the child, in some cases resulting in "off-rolling or exclusion"	1	1%	0	-	2	3%
Dissatisfaction with the school system, or the school(s) at which a place is available	3	2%	2	1%	2	3%
Familial reasons which have nothing to do with schools or education e.g		-	0	-	0	-
Health reasons, particularly mental health of the child e.g Anxiety	1	1%	2	1%	3	5%
Ideological or philosophical views which favour home education, or wishing to provide education, which has a different basis to that normally found in Schools	8	4%	4	3%	2	3%
Lifestyle choice					30	49%
Other					3	5%
Parent Elect to Educate at Home	111	60%	104	78%	3	5%
Religious or cultural beliefs and a wish to ensure that the child's education is aligned with these.		-	1	1%	2	3%
Special Educational Need or a perceived lack of suitable provision in the school system for those needs	3	2%	1	1%	3	5%
Parents didn't give a reason	3	2%	0	-	59	
Total	185		134		125	

# Length of time EHE

**Increase in the number of EHE notifications in recent years, especially in the Autumn term**

Whilst there are cases opening and closing throughout any given year, there are a large number of children who remain EHE for more than a year.

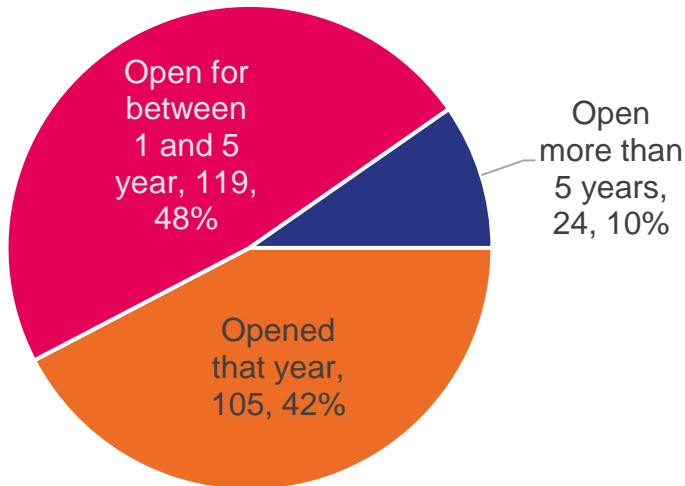
### Length of time as EHE – open cases

Of cases that remained EHE during 2022/23, 48% of them were opened during 2022/23. 24 cases had been open for more than 5 years

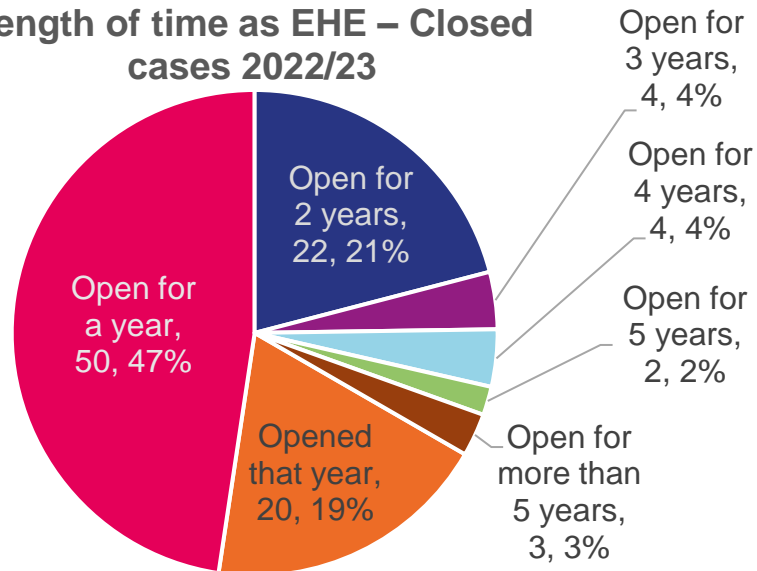
### Length of time as EHE – closed cases

Of cases that closed during 2022/23, 19% had only been EHE since the start of 2022/23. A further 48% of these had opened in 2021/21 (this high proportion closing corresponds with a big increase in numbers of new notifications in 2020/21). Very few of those open for more than three years closed.

**Length of time as EHE – open cases 2022/23**



**Length of time as EHE – Closed cases 2022/23**





# Vulnerabilities of new cases

## Increase in the number of EHE notifications in recent years, especially in the Autumn term

2022/23 is the second year that vulnerabilities of new cases were recorded in a more detailed way, enabling more analysis to be possible:

- 123 of the new notifications were recorded with vulnerabilities
  - 65% has less than 90% attendance before becoming EHE, similar to 2021/22
  - 15% were a CME referral (or without school place for more than half a term) in the last 12 months, also similar to 2021/22.
- A new extended list of vulnerabilities will be used on 2023/24, in line with DfE reporting requirements.

	2021/22		2022-23 - new notifications	
			Total	
LAC (currently or previously)	0	-	0	-
Current CIN / CP	0	-	3	2%
CIN / CP in previous 6 months	0	-	3	2%
<90% attendance before EHE	73	68%	80	65%
3+ schools in last 12 months	1	1%	3	2%
CME referral (or without school place for more than half a	18	17%	18	15%
Never attended school	5	5%	4	3%
1+ Perm Excl in last 12 months	0	-	0	-
3+ FT Excl totalling 10 days in last 12 months	0	-	0	-
EHCP & SW	2	2%	0	-
EHCP	5	5%	5	4%
SEN Support	0	-	2	2%
Refugee (Afghan)			0	-
Refugee (Ukrainian)			5	4%
Closed case	4	4%	0	-
All those with identified vulnerabilities	108		123	
None identified	25		4	

# Goals and Next Steps



# Goals Achieved for 2022/2023

- Regular reviews to ensure EHE Policy and Procedures are in line with DfE Guidance.
- Undertaken termly audits of EHE pupils known to the service
- Reviewed website information and resources for parents
- Working with the Camden Learning Data Consultant to analyse EHE data termly for sharing and presenting at panels.
- Richer data collection from new EHE by adding new reasons for electively home educating planned for 2023/24.
- EHE termly training for schools (Pupil Attendance Service attendance meeting)
- Working with Schools to improve information sharing processes around off-rolling information
- Proactively maintain relationships and offer EHE guidance to key stakeholders, schools and London EHE Officers. Sharing best practice with other EHE Officers
- Working with the Family Link Officer to ensure “at risk “ of EHE are identified, particularly Year 6 transition to secondary school if required
- Work with Public Health colleagues about inoculations for Covid and other health inoculations
- Submission of termly data for DfE (COLLECT)
- Outreach to EHE groups in Camden and other LAs
- Remained responsive to international crisis situations e.g. Afghanistan/Ukraine
- Facilitated cross London training for education officers with EHE parent groups.



# Plans for 2023/2024

- Review EHE Policy and Procedures are in line with DfE Guidance. (New guidance on EHE is expected in the Academic year 2023/24)
- Reviewing website information and resources for parents
- Submission of termly data to DfE (COLLECT)
- Termly update on EHE to Executive Director of Children and Learning and to Councillor for Young People
- Discussion with Camden Safeguarding Children's Partnership about EHE in September 2023
- EHE termly training for schools (Pupil Attendance Service attendance meeting)
- To offer EHE lunch and learn with safeguarding staff when new guidance issued by DfE
- Working with the Camden Learning Data Consultant to analyse EHE data termly for sharing and presenting at panels.
- Richer data collection from new EHE by adding new reasons for electively home educating from September 2023.
- Move to new data dashboards / database planned in Academic year 2023 / 24
- Working with Schools to improve information sharing processes around off-rolling information
- Proactively maintain relationships and offer EHE guidance to key stakeholders, schools and London EHE Officers. Sharing best practice with other EHE Officers
- Working with the Family Link Officer to ensure "at risk " of EHE are identified, particularly Year 6 transition to secondary school if required
- Undertake termly audits of EHE pupils known to the service
- Review Exam Centre Service Level Agreement
- Work with Public Health colleagues about inoculations for Covid and other health inoculations
- Outreach to EHE groups in Camden and other LAs
- Remain responsive to international crisis situations that may increase numbers of EHE pupils.