



**Elective Home Education (EHE)
End of Year Report 2023/24**

October 2024



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)
- [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.

2023-24 Data Analysis

There were 148 new EHE notifications, following a larger number of new notifications in summer 2024. This total number is in line with the 2022/23 total

From 1 September 2023 – 19 July 2024

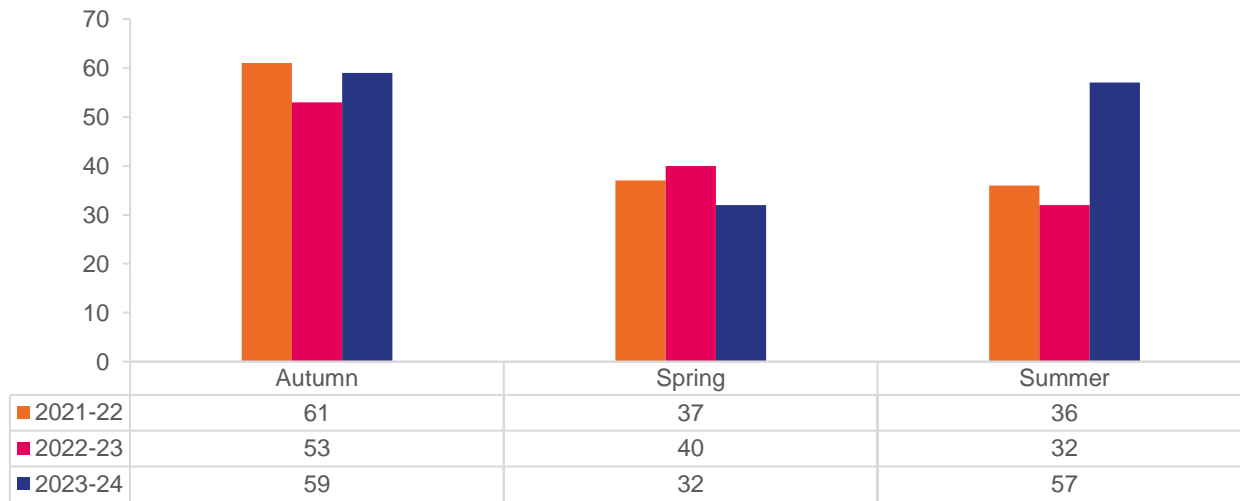
- 360 children were recorded as home educated. With 350 cases statutory school age pupils.
 - 17 cases were reviewed in 2023/24 (a meeting took place) and will next be reviewed in 2025/26
 - 92 active cases were waiting for their first report from our Home Education Advisor
 - 36 cases were closed due to pupils becoming older than statutory school age and these cases were passed to Connexions (RPA)
 - 40 cases were awaiting first outline report from parent / carer
 - 93 cases were closed for a variety of reasons (with going back to a Camden School being the most common reasons)
 - 13 cases had issues that are being followed up with parents / carers
 - 59 cases are due to be reviewed from Sept 2024– Dec 2024.
- New and Closed cases - there were 148 new cases and 93 closed cases in 2023/24. This compares to 125 new cases in 2022/23.
- Special Educational Needs Pupils - 16 with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) with 1 being Raising Participation Age (RPA) so closed to EHE. Our 15 (EHCP) cases are being met jointly with the home education advisor and SEN allocated to the case through Yearly Annual Review meetings.
- Our challenges is making and maintaining contact with families who do not have the requirement to talk or even provide information to the LA under current guidance. The current guidance says we have a duty to make enquiries, and we do so through telephone calls, email, and sending out letters every 6 months. Parent knows we still have them on our register and are here to support in any way.
- More information on EHE figures from 2016 is available on the [Camden Open Data site](#).
- At the start of September 2024 there were 223 EHE children recorded as home educated (14 have an EHCP without a social worker and 2 with a social worker).



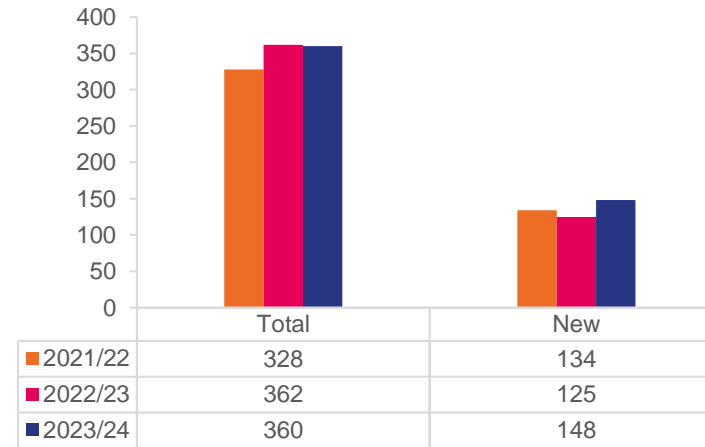
Number of new EHE Notifications

Relatively high number of new notifications alongside a large number of EHE referrals overall

EHE new notifications by term



EHE total notifications by year



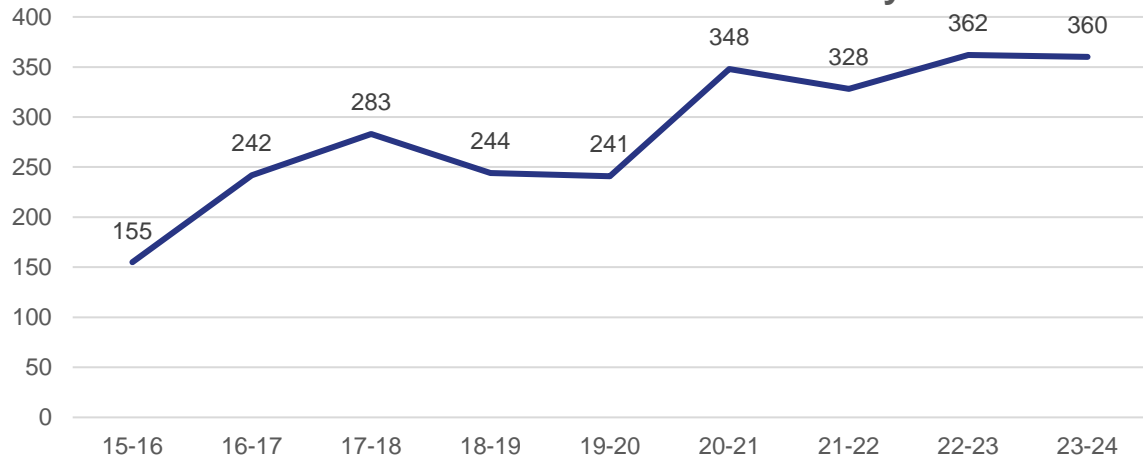
In 2023/24, there were 148 new EHE notifications.

- This was slightly higher than the last few years.
 - Unusually, there were nearly as many new notifications in Summer as Autumn (with September (35) and June (20) having the highest number of new notifications).
- There were 360 total cases in 2023/24 (including new notifications, open cases and closed cases), which is very similar to 2022/23.

Number of EHE notifications

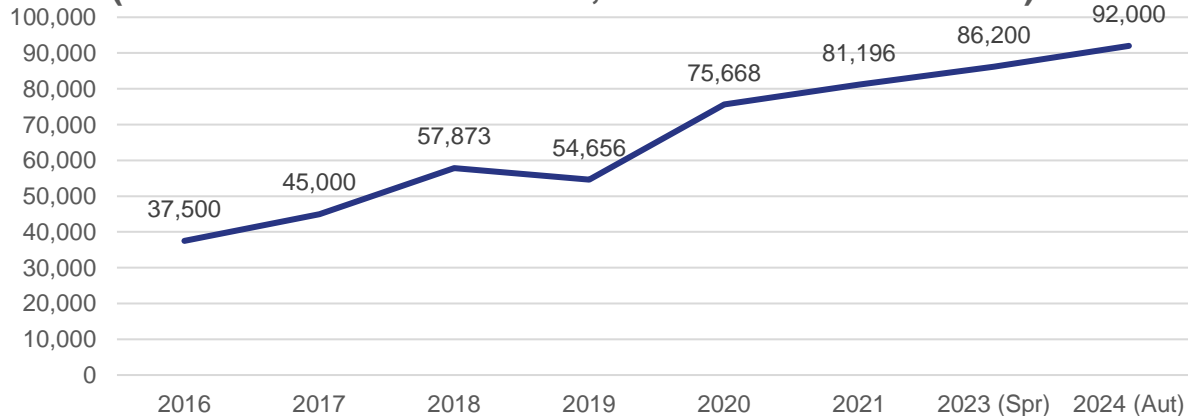
EHE referrals in Camden over last six years show an overall increase, especially in 2020/21 and 2021/22, similar to the national picture

Camden EHE total notifications - trend over year



- 2023-24 saw the number of EHE notifications remain similar to 2022-23, both new and existing cases in Camden in recent years.
- Data from the DfE’s published number of EHE cases showed 92,000 cases in Spring 2024 Census.
- LAs across London have reported a steady increase in the number of EHE pupils.

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





Reasons parents choose to EHE

SEN (or a perceived lack of suitable provision) and as a short-term intervention are the main reasons parents chose to educate at home, where a reason has been provided, or a family has been visited

- In 2023-24, there remained a very high number of notifications where the parent didn't provide a reason, which makes comparisons to previous years more difficult.
 - SEN (or a perceived lack of suitable provision in the school system was one of the largest reason, where a reason was provided.
 - As a short-term intervention for a particular reason was the second largest reason provided.
- 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. Work has been undertaken to check these unknown reasons, and this did reduce the number of unknowns from an initial figure of nearly 100.

	2021/22		2022/23		2023-24 revised	
As a short term intervention for a particular reason	12	9%	7	6%	11	7%
Bullying of the child at school	2	1%	4	3%	4	3%
Did not get school preference (reception)					1	1%
Did not get school preference (secondary) - Year 7			2	2%	2	1%
Did not get school preference (In year admission)					3	2%
Dispute with school about SEN	0	-	2	2%	4	3%
Dissatisfaction with the school system, or the school(s) at which a place is available	2	1%	2	2%	5	3%
Mental health e.g Anxiety - medical evidence provided	2	1%	3	2%	1	1%
Mental health - no medical evidence provided					5	3%
Lifestyle choice	104	78%	30	24%	7	5%
Philosophical or preferential reasons			1	-	7	5%
Physical Health - medical evidence provided					4	3%
Physical Health - no medical evidence provided			0	-	3	2%
Risk of school exclusion					1	1%
Religious reasons	1	1%	2	2%	2	1%
Special Educational Need or a perceived lack of suitable provision in the school system for those needs	1	1%	3	2%	14	9%
Parent / Guardian did not give reason			62	50%	74	50%
Total	134		125		148	

Increase in the number of EHE notifications in recent years

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.

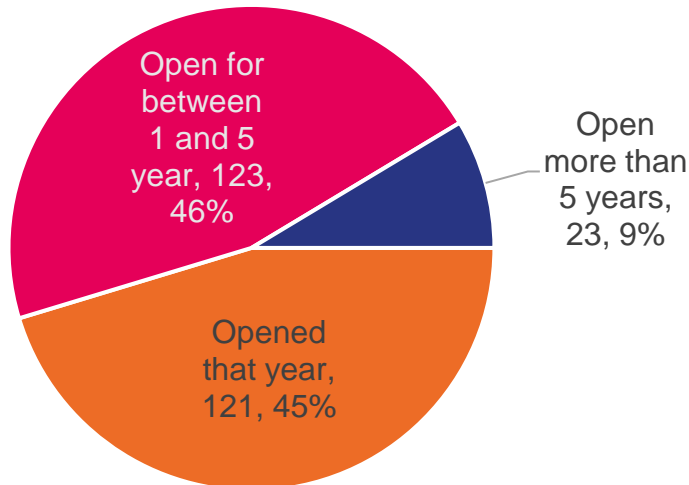
Length of time as EHE – open cases

Of cases that remained EHE during 2023/24, 45% of them were opened during 2023/24. 23% cases had been open for more than 5 years.

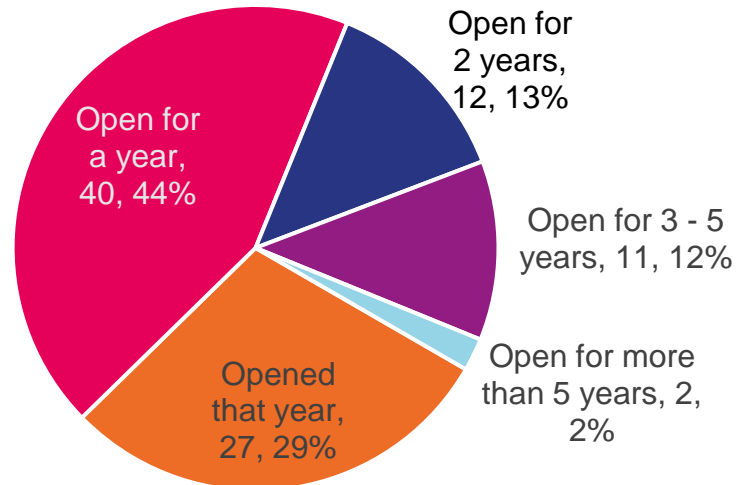
Length of time as EHE – closed cases

Of cases that closed during 2023/24, 29% had only been EHE since the start of 2023/24. A further 44% of these had opened in 2022/23 (this high proportion closing corresponds with a big increase in numbers of new notifications in 2021/22). Very few of those open for more than three years closed.

Length of time as EHE – open cases 2023/24



Length of time as EHE – Closed cases 2023/24





Vulnerabilities of new cases

Poor attendance was the most common vulnerability in 2023/24, with an extended list of vulnerabilities being used for the first time

In 2023/24, a new, extended list of vulnerabilities was used, in line with DfE reporting requirements, so comparisons with previous years are not directly possible.

Poor attendance (between 50-90%) was found to be the most common vulnerability, with 33% of new cases.

In total, 5 cases had an EHCP, with SEN being found to be a vulnerability in a number of cases, with SEN Support and SEN needs being identified by the parents being cited.

7 cases had a social worker, with the largest group being current CiN.

CP (Closed in last 12 months)	1	1%
Current CIN	3	2%
CIN (closed in current academic year)	1	1%
CIN (closed in last 12 months)	1	1%
Early Help	4	3%
Safeguarding issues raised by school / LA	5	4%
Poor attendance before EHE (50% to 90%)	47	33%
Severely absent before EHE (below 50% attendance)	8	6%
<90% attendance before EHE	13	9%
Health issues - medical evidence provided	8	6%
Mental health issues - medical evidence provided	3	2%
CME referral (or without school place for more than half a term) in the last 12 months	6	4%
Never attended school	3	2%
EHE previous LA / country	3	2%
EHCP & SW	1	1%
EHCP	4	3%
SEN Support in school	3	2%
SEN needs identified by parents	1	1%
Refugee (other groups)	2	1%
Closed case to EHE	24	17%
LA concern	1	1%
All those with identified vulnerabilities	142	
Total with SW	7	5%
Total with EHCP	5	4%
None identified	4	

Goals and Next Steps



Goals Achieved for 2023/24

- 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.
- New EHE reasons added for electively home educating cases.
- 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 2024/2025

- Review EHE Policy and Procedures are in line with DfE Guidance. (New guidance on EHE is expected in the Academic year 2024/25) and recommendations from Children Safeguarding Partnership Board Audit.
- Reviewing website information and resources for parents
- To offer EHE lunch and learn with safeguarding staff when new guidance issued by DfE
- Submission of termly data to DfE (COLLECT)
- EHE termly training for schools (Attendance and Children Out of School attendance meeting)
- 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 2024.
- Move to new data dashboards / database planned in Academic year 2024/25
- 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