

# **Elective Home Education Report**

1st September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Academic year: Terms 1-6



## Introduction ▼

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This report focuses on Kent's Elective Home Education (EHE) current population for the academic year 2021-2022 (Terms 1-6) as well as new notifications and those closed to the service during this period.

## Key Findings ▼

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- The total number of Children and Young People (CYP) currently recorded as Electively Home Educated (EHE), Years R to 11, at the end of the academic year 2021-2022 has increased to 3517. This represents an increase of 12% compared to the end of the academic year 2020-2021.
- The eight EHE Support and Advice Officers completed 2151 visits to families new to EHE and historic families, within Terms 1-6 2021-2022.
- The total number of CYP Years R to 11, recorded as home educated at some point during this academic year is 4745.
- Of the 100 Kent secondary schools, 11 schools are accountable for deregistering 24% of the Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 new notifications.<sup>1</sup>
- Of the current cohort of CYP recorded to be home educated, 33% are known to Early Help (current and historic) and 31% are known to Social Services (current and historic).
- 192 CYP with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) were recorded as home educated (5.5% of total cohort), representing a similar percentage compared to the same period in 2020-2021 (5.9% of cohort).
- Data has identified an increasing trend for Elective Home Education (EHE) within Key Stage 4; Key Stage 4 CYP represent 30.3% of the current cohort.
- Data provided by schools reports emotional health issues as the main reason that parents advise schools of when they remove their CYP from a school roll to home educate. This was cited for 30.1% of new notifications in the academic year 2021-2022. This is similar to the data from the previous academic year.
- During this academic year, 1166 CYPs ceased to be recorded with the home education team at Kent County Council. 21.3% of cases closed were open for 100 days or less; this may indicate that home education has been chosen by parents as a short-term intervention. It should be noted that of the 1166 CYPs who ceased to be recorded with the home education team, a portion of those included cases closed at the end of Year 13.
- During Terms 5 and 6 of 2022, the home education team have been contacting Year 11 families to ascertain onward destinations of the CYP as part of the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) prevention process.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that Fair Access only accept Key Stage 5 referrals for children who have previously been recorded as EHE or have an EHCP.

## Part 1

### Current EHE Population - Overall ▼

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1st September 2021 – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 (Terms 1-6)	
Total EHE cases currently open at the end of Term 6	3517
Total cases opened during this academic year	1851
Total cases closed during this academic year	1166
Total registered at any point during this academic year	4745
Total visits, both virtual and physical completed by Elective Home Education Support and Advice Officers (new and historic cases) between 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 & 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	2147
Total visits both virtual and physical declined (not home / cancelled) between 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 & 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	2431

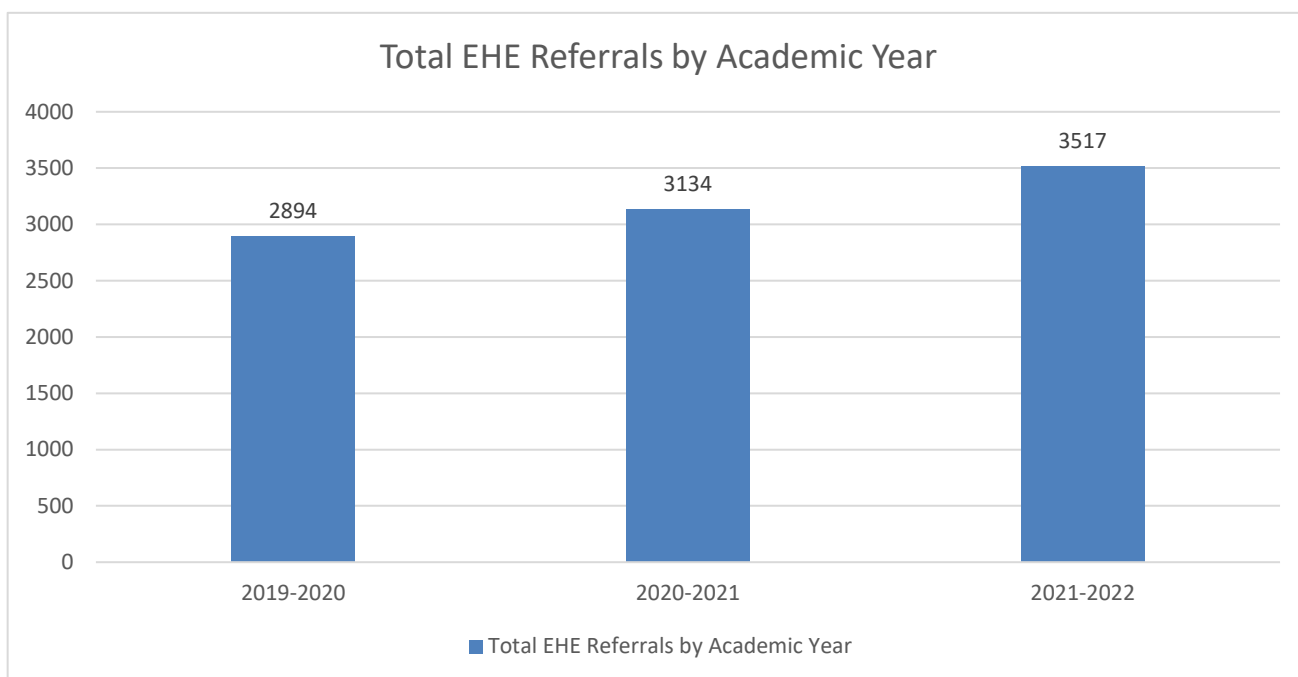
The total number of Children and Young People (CYP) recorded with the Elective Home Education (EHE) team in Kent continues to increase.

At the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, 3517 CYP are recorded as home educated; representing an increase of 12% compared to those recorded at the end of the academic year 2020-2021.

2147 visits, both virtual and physical, were completed by the EHE Support and Advice Officers, visiting new and historic families between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

2431 visits were cancelled, or families were not home when Officers visited. This high number of cancellations and families not being home at the scheduled time for a visit, has impacted on the EHE Support and Advice Officers workload. Kent's EHE policy was revised in 2020 to reflect the 2019 DfE guidance for local authorities, with the aim to reduce the number of cancellations incurred, allowing the officers time to focus on families who require support.

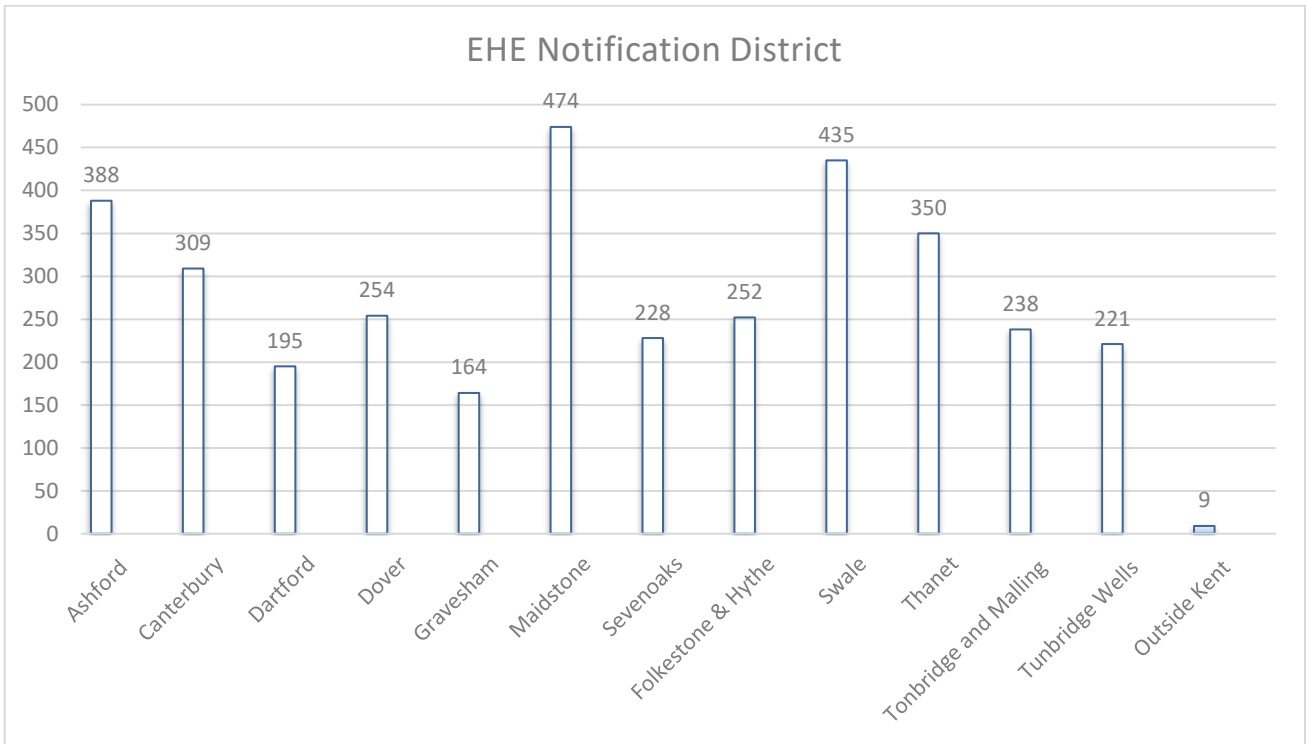
## Current EHE Population - Overall: End of the Academic Year ▼



The number of CYP recorded as EHE at the end of the academic year 2021-22 (as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022) is 3517. However, the total number of CYP recorded as EHE at any point during this academic year is 4745; a slight decrease of 3.5% compared to the academic year 2020-2021, where the total number of children recorded at any point was 4917. This decrease may, in part, be due to the relaxation of COVID-19 mitigations but the overall numbers of CYP who are electively home educated remains significantly higher than pre-pandemic.

## Current EHE Population - Overall: Notification District ▼

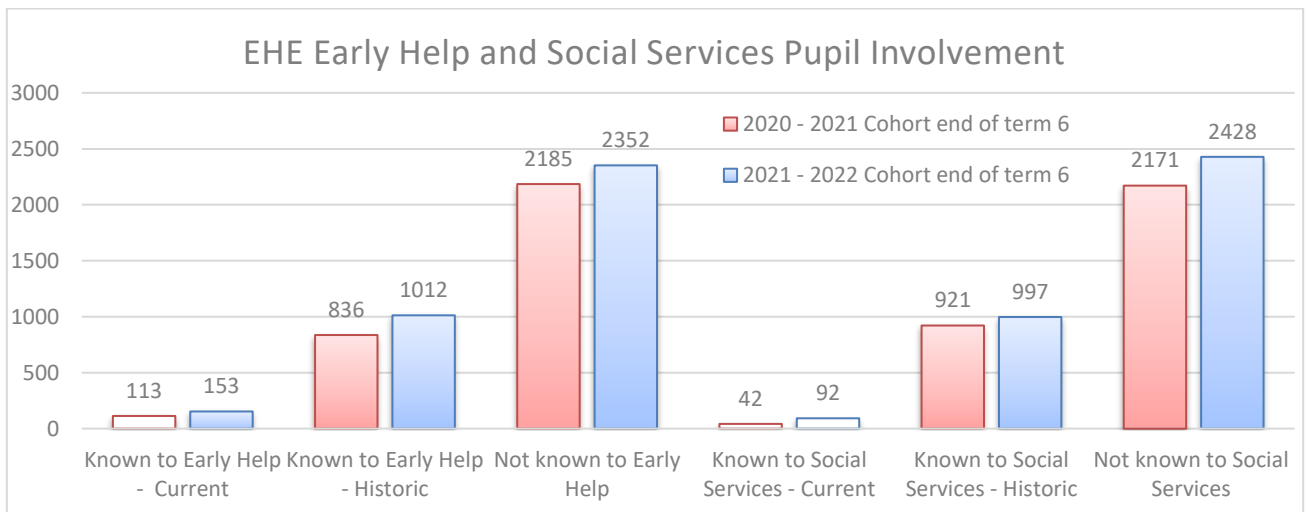
The highest number of CYP recorded as home educated at the end of the academic year 2020-2021 reside in the district of Maidstone (13.5%). The districts of Swale (12.4%) and Ashford (11%) show the second and third highest number of notifications. The fourth highest number of notifications reside in Thanet (10%).



**Current EHE population - Overall: Other Service Involvements ▼**

Of the current cohort of CYP recorded as electively home educated, 33% are known to Early Help (current and historic) and 31% are known to Social Services (current and historic). In some cases, families had been subject to both Social Services and Early Help involvement. This is an increase from the previous academic year (2020-2021) where 30.3% of the cohort were known to Early Help and 30.7% were known to Social Services.

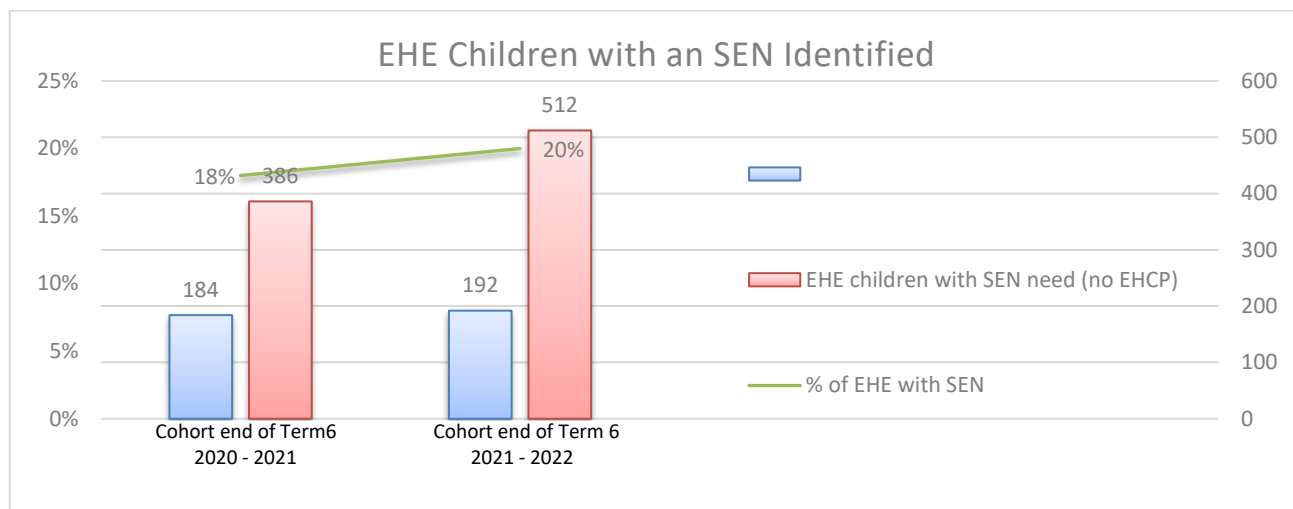
6.9% of the current cohort were currently open to either Social Services or/and Early Help at the time of notification, showing an increase since the previous academic year (2020-2021) where 4.9% had current intervention at the time of the notification.



## Current EHE Population - Overall: Special Educational Needs ▼

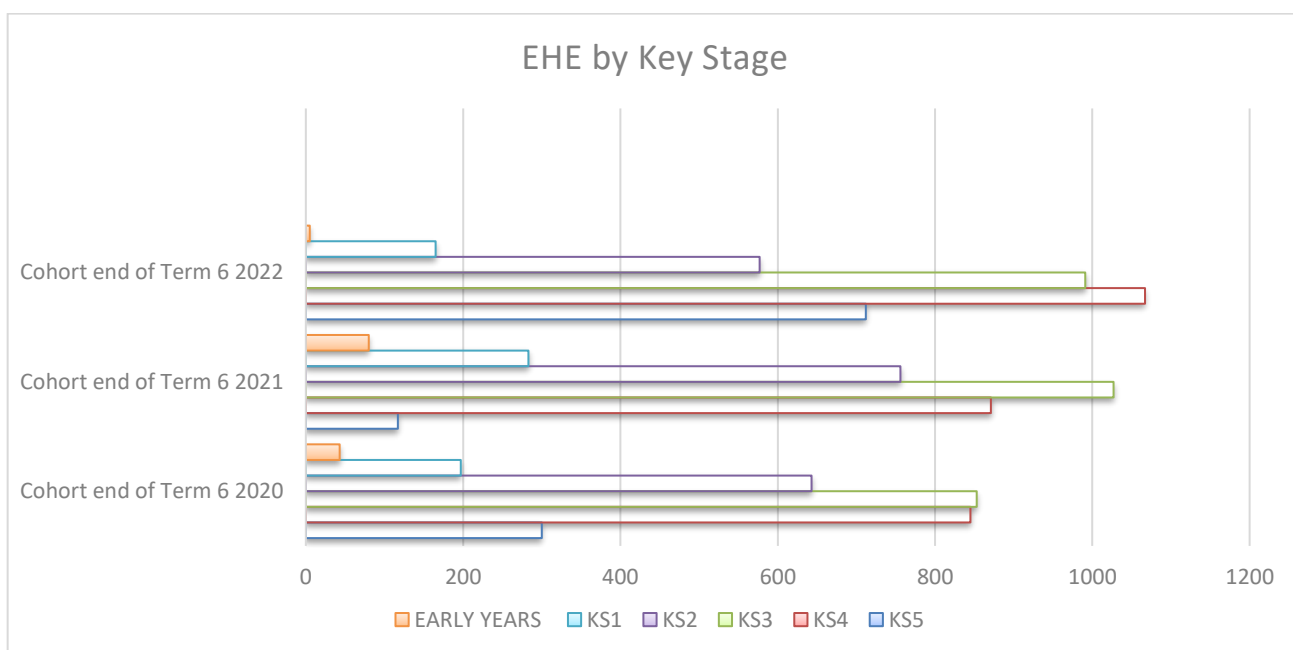
Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP): Currently, 192 CYP with an EHCP are recorded as home educated (5.5% of cohort), representing a similar percentage compared to the same period in 2020-2021 (5.9% of cohort).

Special Educational Need identified and/or EHCP:



The percentage of the cohort with SEN and/or EHCP has increased to 20% for the academic year 2021-2022 compared to 18% during 2020-2021.

## Current EHE Population - Overall: Key Stages ▼



Over the past three years, there has been an increasing trend for EHE within Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4; Key Stage 3 represents 28.2% of the current cohort and Key Stage 4 represents 30.3% of the current cohort. The pre-pandemic increases for home education at Key Stage 5,<sup>2</sup> particularly in Year 12, has returned. This cohort of young people have been particularly affected by lockdowns and disruption to public examinations; both of which may be a factor in their decisions to home educate beyond the end of statutory school age.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that Fair Access do not accept Key Stage 5 notifications, these numbers are monitored by the Skills and Employability team.

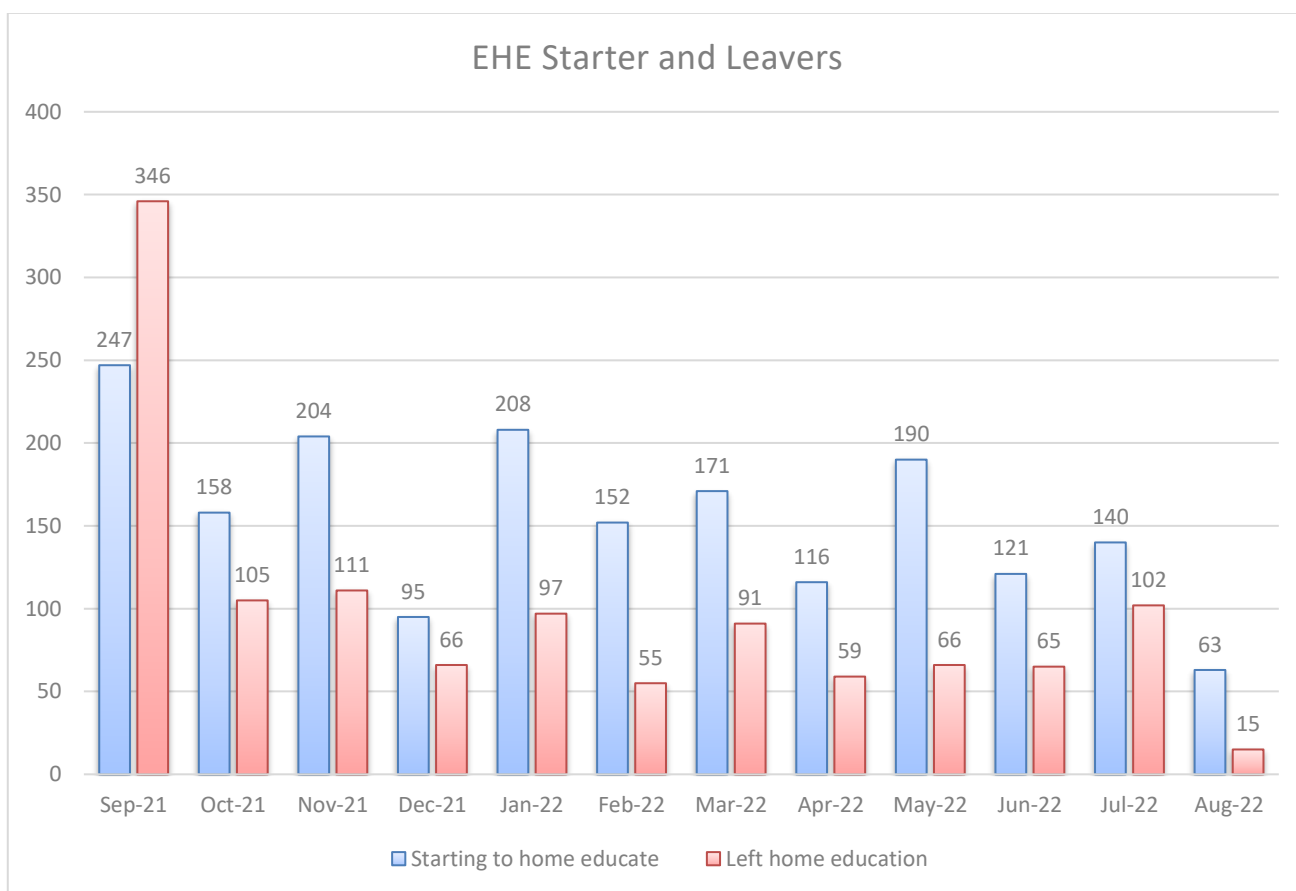
## Part 2

### Starting and Leaving EHE this academic year ▼

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This academic year (2021-2022), Kent recorded 1851 new notifications.

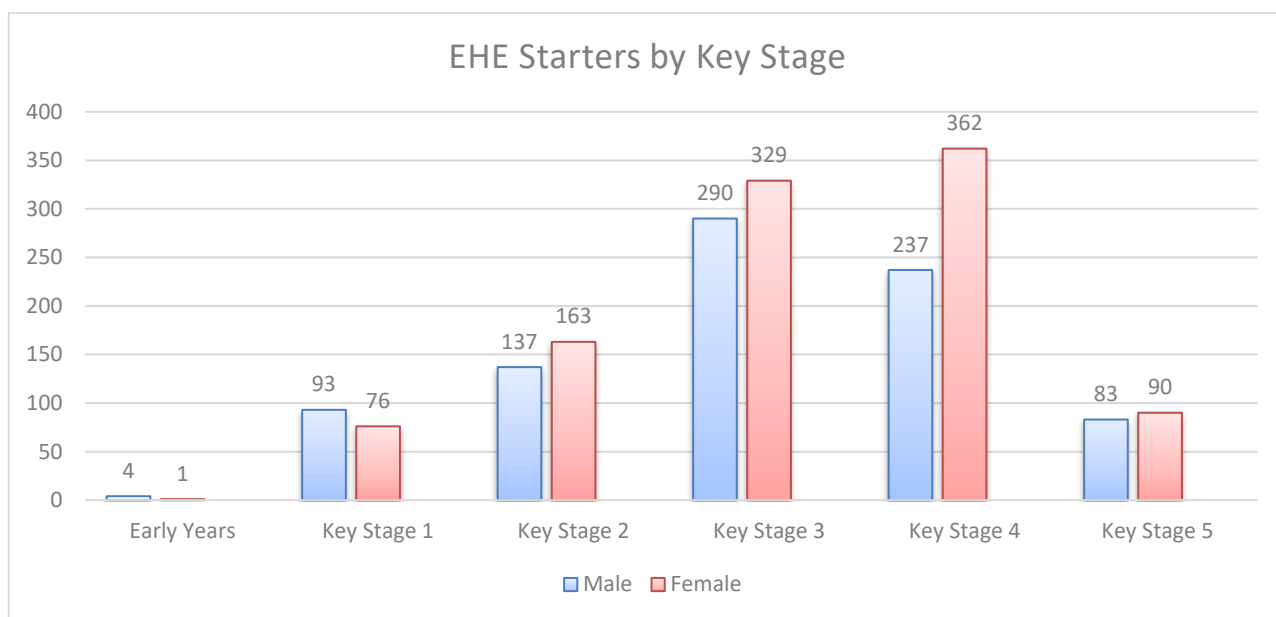
For each month, excepting September 2021, the number of new notifications was, higher than the number of CYP who ceased to EHE, following the trend of recent years. September 2021 records higher than average closures due to Year 12 School and College places being taken up. The increase in 2021, may be partly due to the lifting of restrictions linked to the pandemic, providing the opportunity for CYP to return to school without mitigations.



### Starters: EHE New Notifications ▼

The majority of CYP who became home educated during this academic year (2021-2022) were in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

The highest number of EHE notifications were received for CYP in National Curriculum Year 10 (16%), Year 11 (15.7%) and Year 9 (13.5%). These are pivotal years in a pupil's education as they lead up to and undertake their GCSE examinations and/or consider their options for post 16 education, employment or training, so it is even more essential that families are well supported to make informed decisions relating to home education at this crucial time.

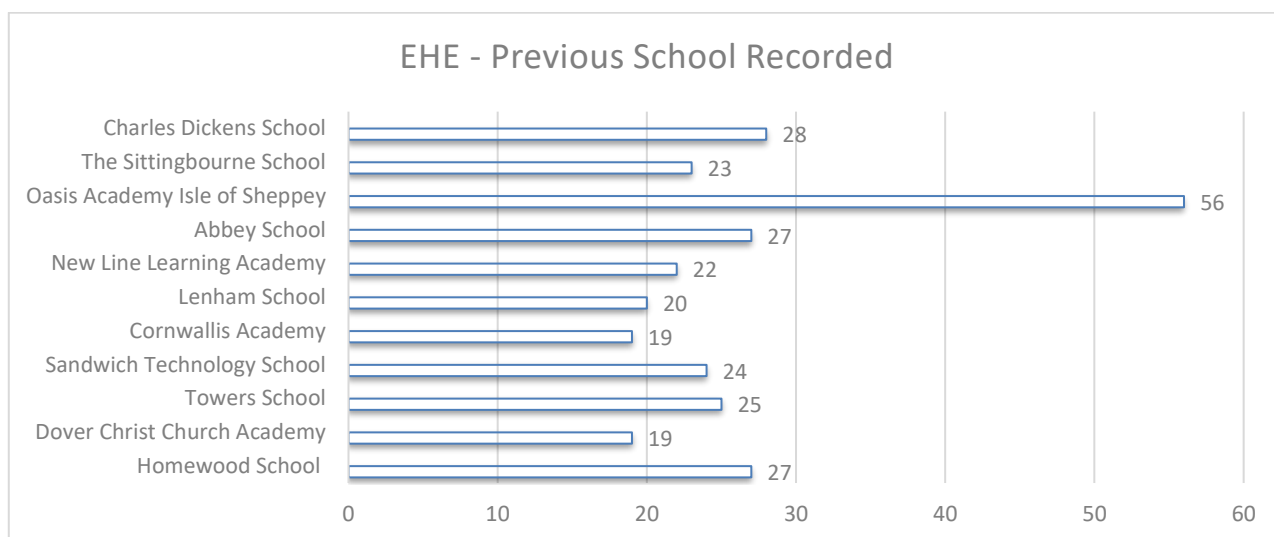


Of the primary school cohort (Key Stages 1 and 2), CYP in Year 5 and Year 6 accounted for 9% of new EHE notifications during the academic year 2021-2022. Year 6 is at the end of Key Stage Two, where the children complete SATs examinations. Please note that Fair Access do not accept Key Stage 5 notifications, these numbers are monitored by the Skills and Employability team.

### Starters: Previous School Recorded ▼

Of the 100 Kent secondary schools, 11 schools are accountable for deregistering 24% of CYP to EHE in Key stage 3, 4 & 5.





### Starters: Reasons for EHE ▼

Referrals stated,<sup>3</sup> health and emotional health as the main reason for deregistering CYP to home educate (30.1%, which is a similar percentage to that seen in new EHE notifications in the academic year 2020-2021, continuing to highlight health and emotional health issues for young people.

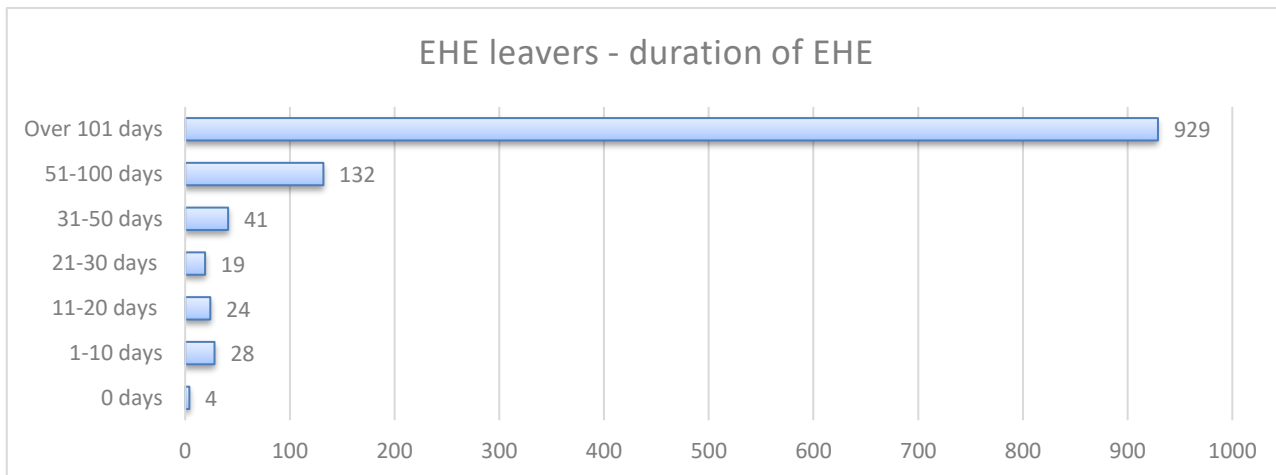
Reason	2020-2021	2021-2022	2 Year Trend
Notification from CME	1.2%	2.5%	↑
Dissatisfaction with school - SEND	0.5%	0.2%	↓
Dissatisfaction with school - bullying	2.0%	3.4%	↑
General dissatisfaction with the school	4.4%	7.5%	↑
Health and emotional health	30.2%	30.1%	↓
Difficulty accessing a school place	4.6%	6.9%	↑
A means of avoiding legal action	1.3%	2.2%	↑
A means of avoiding school exclusion	0.8%	0.2%	↓
Parent did not provide a reason	51.7%	46.6%	↓
Religious, philosophical, or cultural	3.9%	2.3%	↓

### Leavers: EHE Leavers ▼

Our data demonstrates that home education has been used for brief periods; during the 2019-2020 academic year, 58% of the EHE cohort were recorded as being home educated for less than 100 days, indicating that home education was chosen as a short-term intervention, rather than a philosophical or lifestyle choice. By 2020-2021, this had decreased sharply to just 28.9% of the current cohort being EHE for less than 100 days and 71.1% electing for home education for over 101 days, suggesting that other motivations to home educate resulted in longer periods. This move towards longer periods of elective

<sup>3</sup> The collated data matches the EHE 1 form schools complete when deregistering a CYP to home education.

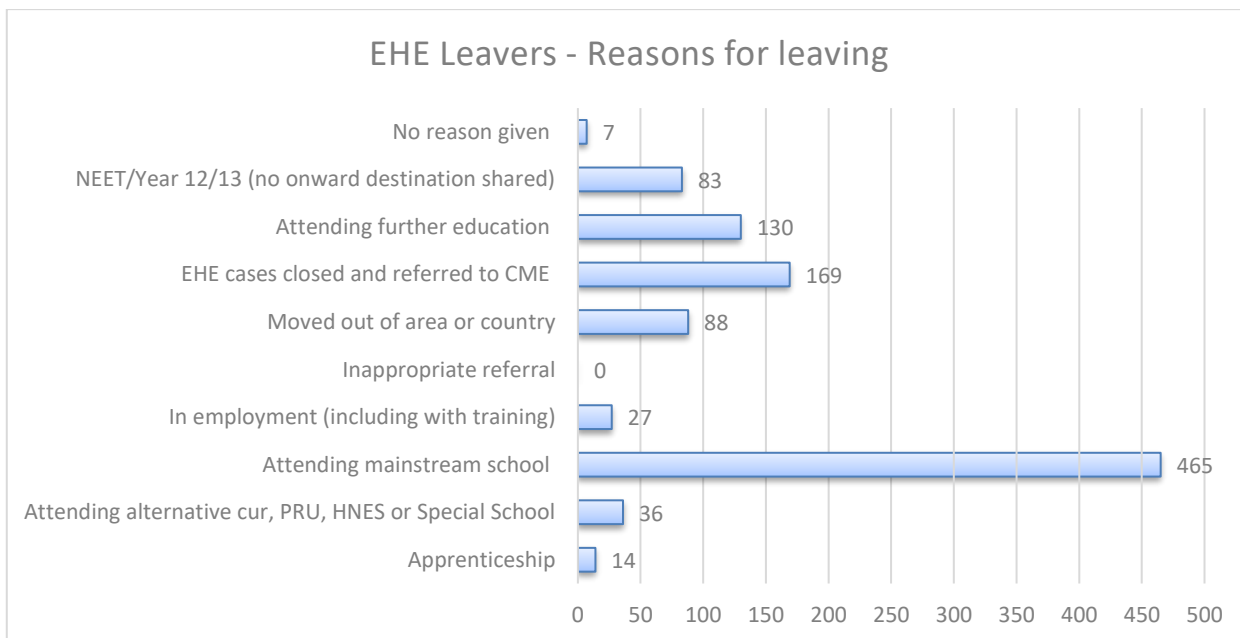
home education has continued in the academic year 2021-2022, with 79.7% of leavers having been educated at home for 101 days or longer. The implications of lockdowns and other COVID-19 restrictions may have been instrumental in parental decision making.



In line with the home education team’s and Skills & Employability team’s efforts to contact Year 11 and Year 12 families to ascertain onward destinations and offer support for Post 16 options as part of the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) prevention process, cases were closed when confirmation was received that the CYP was no longer home educating. Year 13 CYP were closed following the end of their time in education.

**Leavers: EHE reasons for leaving home education ▼**

The majority of CYP leaving home education this academic year are now attending a mainstream school (39.9%).



## **Conclusions ▼**

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There continues to be a steady increase in the number of notifications received from families wishing to home educate during the course of the academic year 2021-2022, with each term seeing more new referrals than the previous one.

To manage the increase in numbers the EHE team now consists of eight EHE Support and Advice Officers, responsible for the twelve districts across Kent, supported by three Administrative Assistants who process all new referrals and closures. The EHE Support and Advice Officers have endeavoured to remain in contact with families via telephone, email, video call and face-to-face visits throughout the year and are continuing to reach out building relationships with families who are new to EHE, as well as visiting and supporting families who are due a progress review.

The team will continue to reach out to schools providing advice to enable lead professionals in schools to have informed conversations with parents, ensuring they are fully aware of their responsibilities prior to them removing their child from a school roll to home educate.

Data is captured to identify patterns and trends. Where schools are identified as deregistering disproportionate numbers to home educate, this information is collated and reported to the school, allowing them the opportunity to address this. The data is also reported annually within the Schools Adjudicator report.

## **Data Summary ▼**

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The data in this report is based upon EHE notifications within Kent County Councils term dates and therefore may be marginally different to the figures in Management Information's monthly reports.