

## Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)

### Background

EOTAS operates under section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Local authorities have the power to consent to a child or young person with SEN being educated somewhere other than a school or post 16 education institution but only where the authority is satisfied that “...it would be inappropriate for the provision to be made in a school or post-16 institution...”

### What is EOTAS?

EOTAS stands for Education Otherwise than at School and is education provision to meet specific needs of pupils who, for whatever reason, *cannot* attend a mainstream or special school. In law, local authorities are responsible for providing these services.

Pupils can be out of school for a variety of health reasons or following exclusion from school for example mental health issues that would affect their ability to attend a school, or that the school settings they have attended are not able to meet their needs.

EOTAS can also be used when a child or young person finds themselves in between settings (such as New in City) as a short-term method of ensuring that the provision in their EHC Plan is being delivered.

EOTAS is different than Elective Home education (EHE) where a parent has actively chosen to educate their child at home.

DfE Guidance on EOTAS can be found by following this link <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-education-otherwise-school>

### Examples of EOTAS

EOTAS can include a range of methods of providing tuition for example:

- Online tuition
- Home tuition
- Attendance at other education centres
- It can include therapies such as speech and language therapy that are classed as educational provision.

### How does the Local Authority (LA) decide the EOTAS is appropriate?

1. The LA must decide that it is necessary to make special educational provision that is **not** in a school, post 16 setting or early years setting.
2. The LA must be satisfied through an evidence base that a school, post 16 institution or early years setting would be **inappropriate** for the child or young person.
3. The LA must consult with the parent or young person about their intentions.

A full policy on EOTAS is currently being drafted and will be available in due course.