

EOTAS Explained



A Parent & carer guide to
Education Otherwise Than At
School

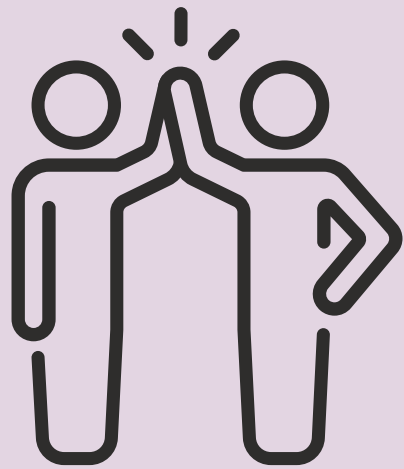
What it is • Who it's for • How it differs from
EHE & Alternative Provision

What is EOTAS?

EOTAS simply stands for Education Otherwise Than At School

An EOTAS package is individually designed around the child or young person's special educational needs and may include provision such as:

Mentoring



Tutoring



Therapeutic Input



Who Might EOTAS Be Appropriate For

EOTAS may be considered where it would be inappropriate for the child or young person's special educational provision to be made in a school or post-16 institution.

Circumstances might include:

Severe
anxiety

Emotionally
Based School
Avoidance
(EBSA)

Autistic
Burnout

Significant
sensory
difficulties in
school
environments

Complex
Special
Educational
Needs

Significant
school based
trama

A diagnosis or difficulty attending school does not automatically mean EOTAS is appropriate. The key legal question is whether it would be inappropriate for the child or young person's special educational provision to be made in a school or post-16 institution.

The Law Behind EOTAS

The legal framework for EOTAS is set out in Section 61 of the Children and Families Act (2014)



- (1) A local authority in England may arrange for any special educational provision that it has decided is necessary for a child or young person for whom it is responsible to be made otherwise than in a school or post-16 institution or a place at which relevant early years education is provided.
- (2) An authority may do so only if satisfied that it would be inappropriate for the provision to be made in a school or post-16 institution or at such a place.
- (3) Before doing so, the authority must consult the child's parents or the young person.

What Can an EOTAS Package Look Like?

There is no standard EOTAS package. The provision should be individually specified according to the child or young person's identified SEN and the provision required to meet those needs.

Where a child or young person is receiving wholly EOTAS under s.61, Section I would ordinarily not name a school or other institution.

Packages may include tutoring, mentoring, therapies, specialist teaching and other provision, depending on individual need.

To show how different EOTAS packages can look in practice, here are three real-life examples from my own family:

Eldest, 11 years old, very superior IQ alongside significant sensory processing difficulties:

- 15hrs/per week private tutoring (maths, english, science, history, philosophy)
- 5hrs/per week computer science & technology
- 5hrs/per week 1:1 mentoring

Middle, 10 years old, superior IQ alongside severe EBSA and significant sensory processing difficulties:

- 15hrs/per week mentoring
- 10hrs/per week 1:1 tutoring

Youngest, 7 years old, severe ADHD, ASD, learning difficulties & dyspraxia:

- 15hrs/per week 1:1 tutoring
- 10hrs/per week mentoring

EOTAS vs EHE vs Alternative Provision

Elective Home Education

Note the word 'elective'. A parent should not feel pressured into EHE.

If deciding to go down this path you must ensure that any child of compulsory school age receives an efficient full-time education suitable:

- To their age, ability and aptitude, and
- To any special educational needs they may have*

Although the law says 'full-time' there are no set amount of hours.

EOTAS

Education delivered outside a traditional school environment, funded by the LA, in circumstances where school is deemed 'inappropriate' for the child/young person.**

Alternative Provision (AP)

Education arranged outside a child's usual school provision in particular circumstances, including where a child would otherwise not receive suitable education because of exclusion, illness or other reasons.

AP is not the same as EOTAS



*Adapted from the Education Act (1996) Section 7

**Adapted from the Children & Families Act (2014) Section 61

How is EOTAS Agreed?

EOTAS is agreed through an EHCP

For EOTAS under Section 61, the key question is whether it would be inappropriate for the child or young person's special educational provision to be made in a school or post-16 institution.

Evidence can help demonstrate why provision in an educational institution would be inappropriate and what provision is required instead.

Expert/Professional Reports

- Educational Psychologist (EP)
- Occupational Therapist (OT)
- CAMHS
- Previous/Current setting

Attendance Records

Low/no attendance despite support being put in place.

Very useful in many circumstances and particularly for EBSA.

Proposed EOTAS Timetable

This is **not a requirement**.

However, it can be useful for the LA/Tribunal to understand the child's needs

Want to go deeper?

If you'd like to go into more detail or find out more, I'd love to help.



EOTAS in brief:



Under **Section 61** of the Children and Families Act 2014, EOTAS may be arranged where the LA is satisfied that it would be **inappropriate** for the special educational provision to be made in a school or post-16 institution.



It is not the same as Elective Home Education (**EHE**) or Alternative Provision (**AP**).



EOTAS is an **individualised** package of education and special educational provision designed around the child or young person's needs.



Get in touch

I offer email-based support to help parents and carers understand EOTAS and navigate the EHCP process with confidence.



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Please note: The information in this resource is for general guidance only. It does not constitute legal advice. Every child and situation is unique.