



Education Other than at School **(EOTAS)**

Torbay Council is committed to ensuring that it carries out its responsibilities relating to the provision of education with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to educational opportunity and supporting all children and young people to achieve their potential.

It is for this reason that we have created a new Torbay EOTAS Programme to ensure this cohort of young people can still achieve their potential even if they are 'educated other than at school'.

What is EOTAS?

EOTAS stands for Education Otherwise than at School and is education provision to meet specific needs of pupils who have an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) who, for whatever reason, cannot attend a registered mainstream or special school.

EOTAS operates under the Children and Families Act 2014 Section 61 which makes specific legal provision for the education of children and young people, for whom education in a school or post-16 institution would be inappropriate.

Under section 61, local authorities have the power to consent to a child or young person with SEND being educated somewhere other than a school or post-16 institution (typically at home), 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 or at such a place*".

Examples where EOTAS may be appropriate might be:

- pupils with an EHCP unable to attend school through long-term illness or disability

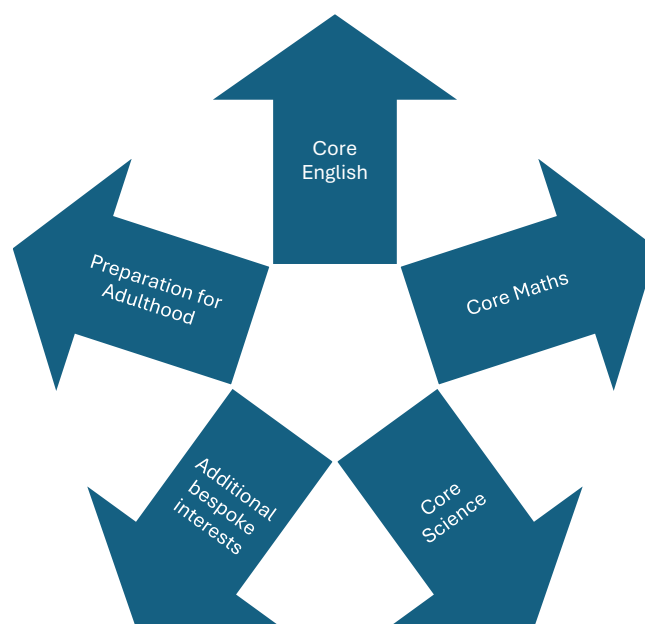
- a range of other special education provision in schools has been tried unsuccessfully
- expectant mothers who are not able to attend for health and safety reasons

Torbay Council believes that school-based education provides a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes social and physical development, moral and spiritual awareness and equal opportunities. If the current educational placement is not working, it may be better to amend the EHCP to set out different special educational provision and/or name a different school or college. If the local authority agrees that it would be inappropriate for the provision to continue to be met in school, it can consent to EOTAS.

Torbay's EOTAS Programme

Every child aged between 5-16 accessing the EOTAS Programme will have weekly tuition in English, Maths and Science as a **Core** feature. In addition, each child will have access each week to support in preparing them for adulthood.

Every EOTAS Programme will then have an **Additional** offer of more bespoke learning matched to the young person's age and outcomes detailed in their EHCP. We hope to build the additional offers to the young person interests whether that be sports, art or other areas of particular interest. There is also the opportunity for children and young people to access therapeutic based provision to support them in accessing their education where needed.



Weekly timetabled hours will be flexible based on the needs of the children and young people. It is the aim that the provision is full time, however it is acknowledged that this may not be in the best interests of the child or young person, or they may not be able to. They might have complex medical, social, emotional, or mental health needs which impact their ability to access their learning, for example.

There is no single legal definition of 'full-time' education, though it is generally considered to be around 18 hours of taught education each week for children and young people of statutory school age. We will work with the children and young people in receipt of an EOTAS Programme, to aspire towards an 18-hour package, with the recognition and understanding that the hours may be below or above this dependent on what the child or young person has the ability to access.

Provision Available for the EOTAS Programme

	Core Curriculum	Preparing for Adulthood	Vocational	Aspirational	Therapeutic
What is this?	Access to Maths, English and Science weekly, incorporating ICT skills where appropriate. This will be face to face small group learning, and, where appropriate, access to 1:1 learning.	Support and intervention to build up skills and knowledge to transition successfully into adulthood. This will be face to face small group learning, and, where appropriate, access to 1:1.	Provision is varied to enable pupils to gain experience and qualifications in relation to their aspired career or interests.	Provision is varied to ensure that pupils can access provision which is linked to their own specific interests and to enhance their education package.	Provision will offer therapeutic support for pupils who are experiencing challenges in accessing their education.
Who can access?	All children and young people accessing an EOTAS Programme	All children and young people accessing an EOTAS Programme	Children and young people in Key Stage 4 who have a particular interest in progressing into a particular job	Children and young people who have particular interest in an area to support with their aspirations.	Children who require additional therapeutic input to support with overcoming barriers to accessing their education.
Who provides this?	Progression Services	The Children's Society	South Devon College Combe Pafford	Beyond Creative Breakthrough Trust Mare and Foal Occuteach Play Torbay Reach Outdoors Simply Great Sound Communities SWIS YMCA	I am More Maker Arts Running Deer Willows Rise

How to access an EOTAS Programme

If the local authority agrees that school or college is not appropriate for the child or young person, parents can request to join the Torbay EOTAS Programme (set out above).

During the annual review process, parents express a preference for an EOTAS package of support.

This request will be considered at the Education, Health and Care Management Board with input from health, social care and educational psychology within 4 weeks.

If the request is declined, the EHCP will be finalised to describe a type of suitable school giving parents their legal right to appeal.

If the request is accepted the SEND Officer will liaise with parents and providers to set up the package.

Half-termly progress reports from providers will be reviewed by the EHCP Officer to ensure the provision is effectively meeting the child's needs. If there are concerns about the suitability of the arrangements, the local authority will hold an early annual review.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there a Torbay EOTAS Programme?

To ensure that Torbay Council can seek the very best providers and package for our young people, a Torbay EOTAS Programme has been created. This means that any providers of this programme have taken part in robust checks to ensure that they are able to provide an impactful offer for your child, and this includes going through the Council's quality assurance processes.

We also hope that some children and young people may be able to feel a sense of Belonging by attending a robust programme; this may include joining some elements of the offer with other young people (where appropriate). It also means that a SEND Officer from the Local Authority regularly monitors your package closely and can be a point of contact for families.

What will be named within Section I of the EHC Plan? (where a school or college should be named):

If a child or young person will not be attending a school or institution at all, their EHC plan should clearly describe their special educational provision in section F and section I should be left blank.

Is this the same as Elective Home Education?

No, EOTAS is not the same as elective home education. If you choose to home educate, parents are responsible for making their own suitable arrangements for the child's educational (including any special educational) provision.

How will my child get there?

Transport will be included in the EOTAS offer where a young person is usually eligible for home to school transport [Home to school transport - Torbay Council](#) .

My child receives free school meals, how do they get this when on an EOTAS Programme?

Free school meals can be applied for via the website - [Free school meals - Torbay Council](#)

If eligible, the free school meals team will provide vouchers.

My child is over 16 and no longer required to attend school, what can they access?

This EOTAS Programme is designed for children and young people of school age up to the age of 16. Torbay Council are developing their Post 16 Pathway model to ensure there is suitable provision available to support young people with SEND. Torbay

Council will work with you and your child to find the right provision to meet their needs and aspirations.

Further information on the Post 16 Pathway Model can be found on the Family Hubs site, once launched. Communications will also be circulated via the SEND Newsletter, so please ensure you are signed up to receive - [Sign up to receive Torbay SEND Newsletters - Family Hub](#)

What happens if my child has an identified need outlined in their EHCP which cannot be met by the provision available on this EOTAS Programme?

If you identify an area of your child's EHCP which is not able to be met under the EOTAS Programme, then you are able to apply for a Personal Budget. If agreed, this will result in you receiving the funds directly from Torbay Council for you to put towards provision to meet these needs. If you would like to request a Personal Budget, please raise this with the SEND Officer who will be able to submit your request to the Education, Health and Care Management Board for approval. For further information on this process, please see Torbay Council's Personal Budget Guidance [Education – Personal Budgets - Family Hub](#).

What could my child's week look like on an EOTAS Programme?

Each week will likely look different for each child and young person based on their needs, abilities and aspirations. Below offers examples of how this could look, however the timetable will be agreed between you and the SEND Officer who is supporting your child. Some elements of the Programme may only be available at certain times of the day, however where we can, we will work around your child's ability to access the Programme.

Example 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning session (9:30-12:00)	Core Curriculum		Core Curriculum	Therapeutic Intervention	
Lunchtime					
Afternoon Session (1:00-3:00)	Therapeutic Intervention	Vocational: Car Mechanics	Preparing for Adulthood	Core Curriculum	Music Production

Example 2					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning session (9:30-11:30)	Core Curriculum	Core Curriculum	Core Curriculum	Core Curriculum	Core Curriculum
Lunchtime					
Afternoon Session (1:00-3:00)		Vocational: Hospitality	Preparing for Adulthood	Vocational: Animal Care	

Example 3					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning session (9:30-11:30)		Core Curriculum		Core Curriculum	
Lunchtime					
Afternoon Session (1:00-2:30)	Therapeutic Intervention		Therapeutic Intervention		Preparing for Adulthood

What have families said about the EOTAS Programme?

Families have been involved in helping Torbay Council to shape the EOTAS Programme. An overview of what has been shared is below:

Flexibility in the offer - the programme as a whole and for individuals

More available provision to meet the aspirations of children

CYP led - follow what they want to do and their ability to access

Ability to achieve - recognition via accreditations and qualifications

To have a sense of belonging - remove the feeling of isolation

Collaboration between providers to ensure that there is a shared approach to learning

Meeting with like minded peers with shared interests

Support to understand and move towards next steps for adulthood

Knowledge on what is available - what is the offer?

What have children and young people said?

Below shows the priorities shared by children and young people in Torbay, which has supported in the development of the EOTAS Programme.

Being supported and having trust in the adults around me

'Trust means you mean it.'

'It is important to help you feel safe.'

'Getting support to be independent.'

'- i feel better, safe and happy.'

Getting help at the right time. Knowing where to find information and who to ask for help

'So I can control my feelings because sometimes i get really mad when I don't want to.'

'Changing the lesson so it's interesting and fun for ME to learn.'

'Makes me feel like I exist.'

Feeling listened to and heard

'Makes you feel safe and feel better.'

'Everyone needs to be able to get their point across.'

'I feel good about myself because everyone understands me and what I'm saying.'