

# Children Missing Education & Elective Home Education

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# Children Missing Education

- New guidance was issued by the DfE in September 2016
- The main changes in this guidance are:
- **All schools** (including academies and independent schools) must notify their local authority when they are about to remove a pupil's name from the school register for any of the 15 reasons given under **Section 8 of the Education(Pupil Registration)(England)Regulations 2006**. Except for standard transition points

# Children Missing Education

- **All schools** must also notify the local authority **within five days** of adding a pupil's name to the admission register at a non-standard transition point.
- In Wolverhampton we have introduced a form to allow schools who are unable to share their data with us to notify us of the pupil's they admit to their roll.
- If schools share their data, they do not need to complete this form as the LA will automatically receive the information.

# Schools' responsibilities

- Schools must enter pupils on the admission register from the day the pupil is expected to attend.
- Schools must monitor pupils' attendance and inform the local authority of pupils who fail to attend regularly, or have missed ten consecutive school days or more without permission.
- Where a pupil has not returned to school for 10 days after an authorised absence or is absent from school without authorisation for 20 consecutive school days, the pupil can be removed from the admission register **BUT** the school and the local authority must make **joint** enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child.

# School's responsibilities (Cont)

- In Wolverhampton we have a form that schools need to complete when taking a pupil off roll. This form includes the new requirements from the statutory guidance to include:
  - The full name of the pupil
  - The full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil normally resides
  - At least one telephone number of the parent
  - The pupil's future address and destination school (if applicable)
  - And the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be removed from the admission register

# School's Responsibilities (Cont)

- Schools must make reasonable enquires to establish the whereabouts of the child **jointly** with the local authority, **BEFORE** deleting the pupil's name from the register
- Schools should undertake their own checks. ie: Phone calls home or home visits to establish that that family have moved.
- They should then notify the local authority who will undertake their own agency checks
- Providing both checks confirm the family have left with no forwarding address the pupils can be taken off roll

# Reception Pupils

- In respect of reception children who do not take up their allocated place schools should:
- Contact the parents to see if they still want the place
- If parents confirm they do not want the place, schools should not put the child on roll, but notify school admissions that the parent has refused the place
- The Vulnerable Young Persons Team will follow up any children who do not have a school place and are classed as Missing Education

# Elective Home Education

WCC recognises that Elective Home Education (EHE) is a parental right which requires significant commitment.

Parents may choose to EHE for a variety of reasons, the following is not an exhaustive list but gives common reasons parents give for making this choice:

- Not gaining a preferred school place
- Religion or cultural beliefs
- Bullying
- Special Educational Needs
- Dissatisfaction with the educational system
- A child's unwillingness to go to school

# Elective Home Education: The Law

The responsibility for a children's education rests with their parents. Education is compulsory in England for children from the start of the term following the child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday until the last Friday in June of the academic year in which the child is 16; ***attendance at school is not compulsory.***

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that:

*“The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full time education suitable*

*a) to his age ability and aptitude and*

*b) To any special educational needs he may have*

*By attendance at school or **otherwise***

***EHE is therefore a parental right***

This definition gives parents considerable freedom in determining the scope of education provided and is not prescribed by the 1996 Education Act.

# Elective Home Education: Parents

**There is no legal requirement for home educating parents to:**

- teach the National Curriculum
- provide a broad and balanced education
- have a timetable
- have premises equipped to any particular standard
- set hours during which education will take place
- have any specific qualifications
- make detailed plans in advance
- observe school hours, days or terms or give formal lessons
- mark work done by the child
- formally assess progress or set development objectives
- reproduce school type peer group socialisation
- match school, age-specific standards
- enter children for public examinations

**In addition when parents EHE they assume full financial responsibility for their children's education, including costs of private tuition, courses and public examinations.**

# Elective Home Education: Schools

The DfE guidelines make it explicit that: “ Schools must not seek to persuade parents or carers to educate their children at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because the child has a poor attendance record”

In order for a child to be removed from a school register for EHE:

1. Parent/Carer must write to the Head Teacher informing them of their decision, this letter must be signed
2. On receipt of the signed letter the Head Teacher should inform the Elective Home Education and Travelling Children Support Officer by emailing a copy of the letter and the signed off registration form to [Hannah.Finch@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Finch@wolverhampton.gov.uk)
3. The child should be removed from the school roll from the date of the letter, or date the letter is received if not dated
4. If however the young person has Special Educational Needs then the name will remain on the school roll until the LA agrees that the parents are able to provide suitable education.
5. The Elective Home Education and Travelling Children Support Officer will then liaise with the family to discuss expectations in relation to EHE.

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