

Education at Home - Frequently Asked Questions

My child has never attended a local authority school and I want to educate at home. What do I need to do?

You need no consent from the education authority to begin educating your child at home.

My child is enrolled in a local authority school but I wish to begin education at home. What do I need to do?

You need to seek consent from the education authority to do so. Consent cannot be unreasonably withheld. Consent is granted on the basis of initial education proposal made by the parents which shows preparation and proposes an education suitable to a child's age, aptitude and ability. Actual 'efficiency' cannot be judged until education unfolds.

Who Monitors Education at Home?

When a child is being educated at home, the authority will seek to establish an effective relationship with both parents and children to ensure provision of 'efficient education'. They will also provide appropriate support and advice to families.

Monitoring home education is undertaken by the Local Authority. Visits will be made on a regular basis to monitor the education provision.

The education authority will seek information to form a view on 'efficiency' on an annual review basis after consent to withdraw from school is granted.

How do I go about withdrawing a child?

You should initially inform Education & Children's Services of your intentions and request consent. Until such consent is granted your child should continue to attend school.

The Authority will acknowledge receipt of this request and send a pro-forma requesting information regarding your proposed provision. This should be returned within 14 days and a decision will be made as quickly as possible. If accepted, home education can begin immediately with annual contact being made by the authority (until such time as your child reaches statutory school leaving age).

If your proposal is not accepted a further request for information will be made by the Home Education Officer who will visit before reviewing the request again.

What are my parental responsibilities for home education?

Whether using a formal or informal approach to learning, it is the parent's role to become attuned to what their child knows, their current skills and abilities, and what interests them. The parent needs to form a view and set goals for what they want their child to achieve over a period of time to assess and monitor their progress, and make provision for their next steps in learning to facilitate an 'efficient' education.