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Schools and Children's Services

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Dear

Elective Home Education: draft LEA guidelines

I consider the Guidelines a most useful document. In general I am impressed with the tenor and tone of the content and consider it encapsulates the spirit of the relationship which should be established between Local Authority Services and parents who choose home education or other alternative forms of educational provision.

If I have any cause for concern it relates to the continued ability of LEA to monitor provision in an effective manner. If this responsibility is to be discharged effectively, I suggest some minimum standards should be established i.e. child without a statement should be expected to attain a reading age which bears some relationship to chronological age.

Article 2 of Protocol 1 of European Convention of Human Rights states "No person shall be denied the right to education". If this concept is to be upheld the right of Local Authorities to make reasonable enquiries must be upheld and safeguarded. The statement that unless a range of limited and defined circumstances exist "the LEA should assume that efficient education is taking place" (3.10), is not helpful in ensuring such safeguards exist.

Yours sincerely

Principal Education Welfare Officer
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