

From: [mailto: @southampton.gov.uk]
Sent: 14 April 2005 11:28
To:
Subject: Elective Home Education Draft Guidelines

Dear

HE Advisor Essex County Council has forwarded to me a copy of the draft guidelines and indicated that you are interested in receiving feedback, below are my personal comments:

My initial thoughts on the guidelines are that it fails to take on board the Every Child Matters Agenda and makes the basis of our dealings with home educating parents even weaker than before.

Current legislation does not place an obligation on the parent to register their child with the LEA Elective Home Education Service. Schools have an obligation to notify the LEA of pupils being withdrawn from their roll to be home educated therefore LEAs become aware of most home educated pupils via this route. However, pupils who have never been entered onto a school roll and pupils leaving the Independent School sector avoid being identified. Home educated pupils transferring between LEAs and with no known forwarding address may not be picked up by the receiving LEA. Nationally this constitutes a small but significant group.

The elective home educated child does not have to be seen by any professional, educational or otherwise, throughout their entire period of compulsory schooling. There is no requirement for contact with teachers, welfare officers or health care professionals. Legal requirements for a family to demonstrate a satisfactory level of education for their child can be fulfilled by parents producing evidence of the child's work. The child does not have to meet with anyone from the LEA.

Part 3 Section 10

Whilst I understand the specific instances named in this section as being those to give concern if a child was electively home educated, without inspecting every family on a yearly basis how can we assume that efficient educational provision is taking place? Just because they do not fall into the categories named in this section one should not presume that education is "efficient and suitable".

Part 4 Section 13

I am always told that there is no funding for Elective Home Education, where from an authority would CRB checks be paid - they cost approximately £34.1 would also query the use of tutors employed by an LEA, these staff are already fully employed.

Part 5 Section 7

I have recently been involved with a parent who wished her daughter to take part in work experience. I spoke with Trident who were happy to inspect the placement, which would need to have been arranged by the parent, but there would be a cost of £35 and Trident would liaise with the family. I have to say that there was an issue

over having to make this payment.

Elective Home Education 5th
Floor, Frobisher House Nelson
Gate Southampton SO151BZ

Tel: 02380 833646

Fax: 02380 832968

E-mail: @southampton.gov.uk