

Consultation – Education Authority Draft Guidelines on Elective Home Education

Introduction

The Education Authority (EA) is seeking to engage in consultation with those who have an interest in Elective Home Education for children and young people.

The Education Authority has developed Guidelines for Elective Home Education in partnership with the Department of Education, Home Education Northern Ireland, the Children’s Law Centre and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

Before arriving at a final set of guidelines for elective home education, the Education Authority is seeking the views of those most directly involved and the following documents are available on **the EA website** to inform your feedback:

- EA Draft Guidelines on Elective Home Education
- EA Easy Read Draft Version
- Draft Equality Impact & Rural Screening
- Elective Home Education Animation

Interested parties can respond by completing the following on-line questionnaire.

Please note – we are happy to receive responses:

By **e-mail**: ehe@eani.org.uk

By **post**:

EHE Consultation
North West Teachers Centre
24 Temple Road
Strathfoyle
L’Derry
BT47 6TJ

Timescale for Consultation

This consultation process will commence on **Wednesday 29th May 2019** and will close at **12.00 noon** on **Wednesday 21st August 2019**. Responses received after this time will not be considered.

*** 1. Name/Name of Organisation/Other Body (optional)**

*** 2. Please select the category that best describes you as a respondent (Please tick one box only)**

- Parent/Guardian
- Pupil
- Home Educating Parent/Guardian
- Home Educated Young Person
- Member of School Staff (Teaching)
- Member of School Staff (Non-Teaching)
- Governor (individual)
- Board of Governors (Please insert name of school below)
- Education/Sectoral Support

- Political Representative
- Local Government Representative
- General Public
- Other (please specify)
*(e.g. Health and Social Care Professionals
 School Nurses (Home Education)
 Other Government Departments
 Community/Voluntary Sector)*

--

*** 3. Having read the Education Authority Guidelines for Elective Home Education, I consider that the guidelines:**

	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Not Applicable
Provide helpful information on the range of issues that parents should consider when deciding to home educate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outlines the procedure to be followed should parents decide to home educate their children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clearly sets out the legal responsibilities of all parties relating to elective home education, and respects the duty of parents as educator	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clarifies the process of deregistration for schools/school principals and clearly explains their duties when a child is deregistered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Highlights that there are many valid approaches to home education and what EA may reasonably expect	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provides information and clarifies the role of the Elective Home Education (EHE) Team as agreed by the Education Authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signposts education resources/information that may be useful for parents who are home educating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signposts family support resources/information that may be useful to parents eg family support hubs, community use of schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provides information about Special Educational Needs for parents who wish to home educate their children with identified Special Needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to make contact with EHE Team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clearly explain the informal and formal process that will be implemented if there is a cause for concern	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explains how any safeguarding concerns should be dealt with if they relate to home educated children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall, I consider that these draft guidelines provides a clear understanding of the legal and practical framework relating to elective home education In Northern Ireland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Please use the space below to comment further

NEXT PAGE BUTTON

Part 4: Consideration of a Register of Children who are Home Educated

The Framework for Elective Home Education, issued by the Department of Education and on which these guidelines are based, included the consideration of a register of children who are home educated, however this is not currently required by law in Northern Ireland. We would welcome your views on whether all children who are educated at home should be required to be registered by the Education Authority.

1. Please use the space below to comment in relation to Part 4 of this consultation

PREVIOUS / NEXT PAGE BUTTON

Part 5: Equality Consideration, Good Relations Duty and Rural Proofing

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 all public bodies are obliged to consider the implications of any decisions on nine different groupings before decisions are implemented.

The two duties within this Equality legislation include promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between all communities.

The equality of opportunity duty requires that the Boards shall, in carrying out all their functions, powers and duties, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

1. Between persons of different religious belief.
2. Between persons of different political opinion.
3. Between persons of different racial groups.
4. Between persons of different age.
5. Between persons of different marital status.
6. Between persons of different sexual orientation.
7. Between men and women generally.
8. Between persons with a disability and persons without.
9. Between persons with dependants and persons without.

The Good Relations Duty requires that the Boards shall, without prejudice to their equality obligations, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations:

1. Between persons of different religious belief.
2. Between persons of different political opinions.
3. Between persons of different racial groups.

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 provides a statutory duty on public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services.

EA will comply with the aims of the EA Rural Needs Policy to ensure that:

- EA complies with its statutory duties under the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016;
- due regard is given to the needs of people in rural areas;
- evidence of the consideration of rural implications by EA is produced and made publicly available;
and
- to spell out the screening process, roles and responsibilities in relation to screening for the benefit of staff and service users.

The Education Authority has completed an equality and rural impact assessment for the Elective Home Education Guidelines and has identified that it would have some minor impacts that have been mitigated within the guidelines. A full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Specifically EA recognises from the current information it holds and research that:

- There are more post primary pupils home educated compared to Primary pupils
- There are more males than females being home educated
- A small number of home educated pupils have an identified special educational need
- That families from a range of religious background may educate at home because of their faith
- Young people from different ethnic background may be home educated
- Sexual orientation may also be a factor for choosing to home educate

To mitigate against these potential factors, EA has included in the guidelines the following:

- That the views of young people will be considered
- A dedicated section on special educational need has been included
- A dedicated section in family support and safeguarding is included

Additionally the document provides a number of positive impacts as it fulfills the following functions:

- Clearly outlines the legislation in Northern Ireland
- Clarifies parents, schools and EA roles and responsibilities
- Identifies considerations for parents when home educating
- Provides advice on how to resolve difficulties which may be a factor in part for choosing to home educate
- Clearly defines how EA will respond to issues of concern
- Provides information on resources and support

In considering EA equality and rural impact assessment please consider the following questions:

1. Has EA adequately considered potential positive and negative impacts?

2. Is there anything additional that EA should consider in terms of equality and rurality?

PREVIOUS / NEXT PAGE BUTTON

Data Privacy

Consultation responses will be used in the preparation of a Consultation Summary Report and to inform development of final Guidelines. Responses will be held securely for a period of 5 years from the date of the consultation closure.

A Consultation Summary Report will be produced and published. This Report will include a summary of responses received.

*** 1. Consent**

- I consent to my name being published in the summary of responses.
- I do not consent to my name being published in the summary of responses.

Where consent for publication of name has not been given, only consultation response will be published. Were the response contains any other personal identifiers these will also be removed.

Where consent for publication of name has been given and the individual wants to withdraw their consent prior to publication, please email ehc@eani.org.uk

Full details of how EA handles personal data are available at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/about-us/privacy/ea-privacy-notice>

Thank you for completing this survey, I acknowledge receipt of your response.

PREVIOUS / SUBMIT PAGE BUTTON

https://he-byte.uk"/>