

## Responses to the Consultation – Local Authority Statistics

**Q1** Do you agree that these proposals strike the right balance between the rights of parents to home educate and the rights of children to receive a suitable education?

There were 80 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	68	84%
Disagree	6	8%
Not sure	6	8%

Define suitable education-who decides?	16	20%
Children 's rights to education are protected	13	16%
Allows LAs to carry out safeguarding role	12	15%
Trained & qualified LA staff/Must understand legislation	8	10%
Partnership working needed especially with parents	8	10%
Resources	3	4%
Schools failing (bullying/teaching of sex education & alternative religions/prescriptive)	2	3%
LAs can identify genuine home educators	2	3%



**Q2 Do you agree that a register should be kept?**

There were 81 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	81	100%
Disagree	0	0%
Not sure	0	0%

Children don't slip through the net/know exact No HE	29	36%
Register supports good monitoring-safeguarding practices	18	22%
Ensures child's right to proper education	16	20%
LA resource implications	11	14%
Could break down relationship bet LA & parent	6	7%
Allows partnerships	5	6%
Will help to share good HE practices	5	6%
ContactPoint should do this	3	4%
Disagree re-registering annually issues/it's a license to control	2	2%
Registered already at birth /deregistration/LA indexes	1	1%



**Q3 Do you agree with the information to be provided for registration?**

There were 80 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	78	98%
Disagree	1	1%
Not sure	1	1%

Should include other details i.e. SEN statement/adults present at address	21	26%
Need more clarity	10	13%
Parents will need help with this	7	9%
Kept to a minimum	5	6%
12 month statement issues i.e. stops flexibility/learning different/-no targets	3	4%
Safety & Confidentiality of data concerns	3	4%
Where education takes place issues	2	3%
Only DOB/name/address	1	1%

**Q4 Do you agree that home educating parents should be required to keep the register up to date?**

There were 81 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	76	94%
Disagree	3	4%
Not sure	2	2%

Parents inform LA to update register/Parental monitoring	14	17%
Parents show commitment to child's education	10	12%
Problems/issues with child movement	9	11%
Common & simple registration process	4	5%
Not in person-On-line registration?	3	4%
Single entry only-re-register if circumstances change	2	2%
LA to keep register up to date	2	2%



**Q5 Do you agree that it should be a criminal offence to fail to register or to provide inadequate or false information?**

There were 79 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	64	81%
Disagree	4	5%
Not sure	11	14%

Legislated/what power will LA have/ worthless if not enforced	22	28%
Parents must fully understand their responsibility to HE	8	10%
Timing issues/last resort only	8	10%
Yes to providing false information	7	9%
Children's rights to education/safety vital	7	9%
LA must promote duty to register	7	9%
Sanctions & warnings not criminalisation -civil action?	5	6%
Protects children withdrawn through inappropriate reasons	5	6%
YP never attended or on a school role	5	6%
Not an offence for not registering	4	5%
Define adequacy of info	4	5%
How will criminalising parents benefit children- causes stress	2	3%
Honest mistakes result in prosecution & system overloaded already	1	1%
Criminalising step too far/who decides/Gov trying to license-control HE	1	1%



**Q6 a) Do you agree that home educated children should stay on the roll of their former school for 20 days after parents notify that they intend to home educate?**

There were 81 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	66	81%
Disagree	4	5%
Not sure	11	14%

Good idea/cooling off period/opportunity to solve problems/rethink	43	53%
Unauthorised absence/not required to attend 20 day concerns	30	37%
Clarification needed	9	11%
Info given to parents ensuring they make informed decision	6	7%
Longer than 20 days	5	6%
Keeping place causes difficulty under admissions law	5	6%
Schools must comply	5	6%
Misuse of 20 days i.e. holidays	1	1%



**Q 6b) Do you agree that the school should provide the local authority with achievement and future attainment data?**

There were 81 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	75	93%
Disagree	2	2%
Not sure	4	5%

Provides benchmark/informed educational judgement & progress	36	44%
School attendance issues	13	16%
Transfer of info from schools crucial	13	16%
HE leaning different from school/don't use curriculum/tests/targets	10	12%
Parental right as well as LA so progress can be discussed	8	10%
Ensures parents receive targeted specialist help	7	9%
Future attainment data can't be predicted	6	7%
More guidance needed	3	4%
Parents to get info not LA	2	2%
Schools can record wrong inaccurate info	1	1%

**Q7 Do you agree that DCSF should take powers to issue statutory guidance in relation to the registration and monitoring of home education?**

There were 80 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	78	98%
Disagree	0	0%
Not sure	2	3%

Stat guidance long overdue ensures rights/responsibilities	29	36%
Must be the same/ not open to misinterpretation	20	25%
Allow flexibility	4	5%
Training & Qualifications for LA officers	2	3%
HE different cannot be monitored	1	1%
Parental responsibility not states	1	1%



**Q8 Do you agree that children about whom there are substantial safeguarding concerns should not be home educated?**

There were 79 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	71	90%
Disagree	1	1%
Not sure	7	9%

Not if home circumstances unsafe/on child protection register	17	22%
Definition of safeguarding-who decides-define anything else?	15	19%
This is vital to stop or conceal abuse	15	19%
After discussion with SS	10	13%
Depends on individual case	9	11%
Need legislation/How will this be enforced	9	11%
Parents competency to HE issues	6	8%
Abuse nothing to do with HE/safeguarded under existing welfare services	3	4%
Need proof/evidence	2	3%
Children abused/not safe in schools	1	1%



**Q9 Do you agree that the local authority should visit the premises where home education is taking place provided 2 weeks notice is given?**

There were 82 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	72	88%
Disagree	6	7%
Not sure	4	5%

Home visits provide essential info/relationship building & what they are learning	30	37%
Resource implication	10	12%
Clarify -what if parents don't allow visits?	9	11%
Spot check visits	6	7%
Hold meeting outside home/have a central/ neutral ground	5	6%
Risk assessments/progress measured & monitored issues	5	6%
Earlier to have discussions bet LA & parents	5	6%
HE takes place everywhere	4	5%
Date & time set by parents for good relations	4	5%
Not compulsory/if requested & convenient for good LA relationships	2	2%
LAs untrained/need knowledgeable unbiased inspectors	2	2%
Only when child is known to be at risk	2	2%
Concerns about what LA criteria is used i.e. culture, size of home	2	2%
Longer period of time needed	1	1%
Intrusive & invades privacy –doesn't foster good LA relationships	1	1%
Only if this is to support HE families	1	1%
Traveller children need flexible time	1	1%



**Q10 Do you agree that the local authority should have the power to interview the child, alone if this is judged appropriate, or if not in the presence of a trusted person who is not the parent/carer?**

There were 81 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	58	72%
Disagree	11	14%
Not sure	12	15%

Child must be able to express views & be considered	22	27%
Clearly defined protocols for judgement ie age	12	15%
Safeguarding SS role not LA/LA untrained	11	14%
2 LA staff/ open to abuse allegations if interview alone	11	14%
Not alone but agree if with a trusted 3rd party	10	12%
Will only be needed in rare cases	6	7%
Parent must be present /approve	5	6%
Interview is too formal 'Meet with' better	4	5%
Children made aware of available support	4	5%
Effectiveness of interview issues i.e. parents control interviews/child won't talk in fear of reprisals	4	5%
Never alone with strangers/police don't have this power	3	4%
Intrusive/breach of rights & law/able to refuse	2	2%
Only when specific concern of abuse not for HE	2	2%
SEN child issues	2	2%
Define trusted/ & judgement/interviewer could abuse if alone	1	1%



**Q11 Do you agree that the local authority should visit the premises and interview the child within four weeks of home education starting, after 6 months has elapsed, at the anniversary of home education starting, and thereafter at least on an annual basis? This would not preclude more frequent monitoring if the local authority thought that was necessary.**

There were 82 responses to this question.

	Total	
Agree	69	84%
Disagree	5	6%
Not sure	8	10%

LA cost implications/Resource & funding	33	40%
More frequently if there are concerns	13	16%
Initial visit then annually	11	13%
Suggests alternative dates	9	11%
4 weeks to early need time to de-school/could disrupt education	7	9%
Allows LA to develop working relationships with families	6	7%
Monitoring kept to min if visit prove satisfactory	6	7%
LAs untrained- they must support, form good links & be unbiased	5	6%
Allows for informed judgements on progress	3	4%
Ensures the environment is appropriate to education	3	4%
Annual visits only	3	4%
Support for HE/better LA links not monitoring or criticising	2	2%
National process so assessment is judged equally	2	2%
Contact only needed i.e. phone/email visits unnecessary in 4 weeks	2	2%
Parents responsibility not state esp. for religion/morality	1	1%