

EHE Consultation
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Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Consultation – Education Authority Draft Guidelines on Elective Home Education

The Commission welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Education Authority's consultation on draft guidelines on elective home education.

While welcoming the information provided within the guidance to assist parents and carers considering home education, the Commission suggests a number of issues for further consideration.

1. Data

The Commission notes (at paragraph 2.1 of the Equality and Human Rights screening template) that 'In the absence of compulsory registration, it is not feasible to reliably estimate the number or profile of home educated children in Northern Ireland.' In the absence of data identifying children being educated at home, access to the supports offered by the Education Authority, and the Authority's ability to monitor that an efficient, full-time and suitable education is being provided is limited.

The Commission has recommended¹ the establishment of robust, reliable education information systems to address existing equality data gaps and provide more disaggregated data. Data gaps and lack of disaggregation in relation to Section 75 groups present a barrier to the assessment of the extent of particular groups within the school population. They limit the accurate and robust measurement of educational attainment, experiences and progression. This in turn limits the scope for more effectively meeting the needs which specific groups may have, and prevents a detailed assessment of the effectiveness of measures aimed at benefitting such pupils / students across Section 75 groups.

¹ [Equality in Education – Policy Recommendations](#)

2. Causes of removal from the education system

In relation to those children removed from school due to special educational needs not being met, or because of bullying, it is suggested that reference is made to the mechanisms in place to resolve issues in these areas.

If a discussion of any of the points made above be would be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



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