



## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 0615146  
Date            26 June 2015

### *Home Schooling*

**Request:**

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information:

1. Please state the total number of children home schooled (for part or all of the year) in your council area in each of the following school years: a) 2009-10 b) 2010-11, c) 2011-12, d) 2012-13, e) 2013-14 and f) 2014-15
2. For each year above, please provide all statistical information held relating to the home schooled children (such as a breakdown of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, SEN status, the reason for home schooling, and any other category recorded.)
3. Please send a copy of your policy on how you assess the quality of home education and how often an assessment is made.

**Response:**

[In response to your request, please find our response below:](#)

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	<b>Total EHE</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>239</b>
	<b>% school pop</b>	<b>0.37%</b>	<b>0.37%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>0.43%</b>	<b>0.54%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>
Gender	Male	60	59	77	73	93	116
	Female	77	72	65	80	106	123
NCY	0	7	3	12	6	18	13
	1	15	8	8	17	13	31
	2	9	14	15	8	17	12
	3	12	10	11	12	10	19
	4	7	13	9	13	16	10
	5	9	9	13	9	18	17
	6	8	9	8	12	13	18
	7	9	13	13	15	21	17
	8	15	10	12	16	18	24
	9	12	12	12	12	20	19
	10	18	14	17	10	20	22
	11	18	16	12	18	13	29
	12				5	2	8
Ethnicity	AIND	5	4	6	5	3	4
	AOTH	1		1	1	1	
	APKN		1	3	4	10	11
	BAFR	1	1	1	1		1
	BCRB	10	12	12	8	7	9
	BOTH	2	1		2	1	2
	MOTH	4	4	4	2	4	6
	MWAS	1	2	3	3	6	5
	MWBA					1	1
	MWBC	8	11	11	12	20	23
	NOBT	30	32	41	33	33	35
	OOOTH					1	3
	REFU					1	2
	WBRI	53	40	44	58	84	109
	WIRI		1				
	WIRT	16	12	8	17	16	14
	WOTH	1	2	2	2	5	8
	WROM	5	7	6	5	6	6
SEN	SA						13
	SA+						17
	STAT						5
	SEN Support*						12

\*New SEN guidance coding

†As SEN status is recorded in real time, retrospective reporting is not available.

## 5. PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY PARENTS, THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND SCHOOLS RELATING TO ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

- 5.1 Where a child has never been registered at a school and is being home educated, the parent is under no legal obligation to inform the local authority of the child's existence or the fact that they are home educating, although many parents do so voluntarily. If any LA Officer becomes aware of such a situation, they should forward any details known to the EHE Coordinator.
- 5.2 The parent is not legally obliged to inform the LA directly if they make the decision to home educate (unless the child is a pupil at a special school) but early contact with the EHE Coordinator can help the parents to make an informed decision and satisfy the LA that parents are making suitable arrangements for the child's education.
- 5.3 When a child is registered at a LA school and the parent approaches the school to discuss the possibility of EHE, the school should respond to the parent positively and constructively. The school should firstly seek to establish that the reason for considering EHE is based on a positive parental choice, not on a dispute with the school. If this is the case, the school should ensure that all steps have been taken to resolve the issue with the parent and pupil. The school should encourage the parent discusses the situation with the school's Education Welfare Officer (EWO) before formally requesting the deregistration of their child. The EWO may direct the parent to the EHE Coordinator for further advice and guidance to enable them to make an informed choice.
- 5.4 The DfE guidelines make it explicit that: *"Schools must not seek to persuade parents to educate their children at home as a way of avoiding an exclusion or because the child has a poor attendance record. In the case of exclusion, they must follow the statutory guidance. If the pupil has a poor attendance record, the school and local authority must address the issues behind the absenteeism and use the other remedies available to them."*
- 5.5 If a parent formally requests the deregistration of a pupil for Elective Home Education the Education Welfare Officer should be informed immediately, by the Headteacher so that enquiries can be made about the pupil's whereabouts and safety, before the child's name is deleted from the register. The Education Welfare Officer will need to be satisfied that there are no specific concerns, such as:
- The child is subject to a School Attendance Order which has not been revoked.
  - The child has been referred to social services or the police for child protection reasons and the matter is under investigation
  - The child is on the child protection register
  - The child is the subject of a supervision order

- There is a history of condoned absence, unmanaged truancy or other low-level concerns that may require further LA intervention by Education or Social Care professionals.

In such a situation the EHE Coordinator and EWO will work closely to obtain information from the parents, so as to be satisfied that an “efficient and suitable education” can be provided by the parents. The parent should be given the opportunity to discuss any specific concerns the LA has and the child will also be given the opportunity to attend meetings and express his or her views, if he or she is able to so.

- 5.6 When a school receives formal, written notice from a parent, that a child is being withdrawn from school in order to be home educated and the child has ceased to attend the school the Headteacher should ensure that the pupil’s name is removed promptly from the admissions register in accordance with Section 8(1)(d) of the Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2006.
- 5.7 Regulation 12 (3) the Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2006 states that *“the “proprietor” (Headteacher) of the school must, make a return to the local authority for every such pupil giving the full name of the pupil, the address of any parent with whom the pupil normally resides and the ground upon which their name is to be deleted from the admission register as soon as the ground for deletion is met in relation to that pupil, and in any event no later than deleting the pupil's name from the register”*.
- 5.8 In practice the school should inform the EHE Coordinator as soon as a child has been withdrawn from school and parents have indicated in writing that they intend to home educate. This should be followed as soon as possible by a copy of the “Request for Off Register form”, a copy of the letter from the parent and written confirmation of the date when the pupil’s name is to be removed from the register. The responsibility is on schools to act promptly in such circumstances.
- 5.9 At this point the school should also encourage the parent to inform the EHE Coordinator independently that their child is being home educated and should copy the parent into the notice to the LA. The SIMS/“One” database must be updated immediately by the school through the Data Exchange process.
- 5.10 When the EHE Coordinator receives formal confirmation from a school or directly from a parent that a child is being home educated, the EWO will be contacted to ascertain that the correct procedure is being followed and to obtain any relevant background information. A check will be made on the “One” database to ensure that the off-registration has been correctly recorded and an EHE Referral will be created in the database which will enable the LA to track communication with the home educating family.

- 5.11 The EHE Coordinator will write to parents within two weeks, during term time, offering a home visit to discuss their child's education at home and to offer the parent support and advice. A copy of Wolverhampton LA's EHE Information Guide will be enclosed.
- 5.12 Wolverhampton LA respects the fact that parents' plans may not be detailed at this stage and they may not yet be able to demonstrate all the characteristics of "efficient and suitable" provision. The EHE Coordinator will in such situations agree a reasonable timescale for parents to develop their provision.
- 5.13 Where parents agree to a home visit the EHE Coordinator will meet with parents and the child, usually within four weeks, to offer informal advice and guidance on EHE and to inform the parents about the LA's monitoring process. The parent will be requested to complete the EHE Planning Questionnaire. In cases where there is cause for concern about the ability of the parent to deliver a suitable, efficient, full time education the EHE Coordinator may be accompanied by another professional, e.g. an EWO, an Educational Psychologist or a Social Worker and the visit will take place at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.14 Where parents decline a home visit, the EHE Coordinator may offer to meet the parents at an alternative venue and will inform parents of alternative appropriate ways of satisfying the LA that a suitable, efficient, full-time education is being delivered. The EHE Coordinator will continue to make regular, written contact with parents, at least on annual basis, in order to ascertain that this is the case.
- 5.15 During any meeting or conversation with parents, actions may be discussed and agreed between parents and the EHE Coordinator regarding the child's education at home. The EHE Coordinator will make written notes during the meeting and will complete a Record of Discussion form. This will be copied to parents and may be forwarded to other professionals with parental consent. The information on the form may be shared with other LA officers with an interest in the child's welfare (e.g. Social Workers, Educational Psychologists), in accordance with the Data Protection Act and Wolverhampton LA's Information Sharing Protocols.
- 5.16 Where a child is newly registered as being educated at home, a follow up meeting will be arranged, with the parents' agreement, within three months. The purpose of this meeting is to establish that the child is receiving the education planned by the parent, and to offer the parent further advice and support.
- 5.17 In considering the suitability of the education provided the EHE Coordinator will be mindful of the 5 outcomes of "Every Child Matters":
- Enjoy and achieve
  - Make a positive contribution

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Achieve economic well-being

The EHE Coordinator will also expect provision to include the following characteristics, as described in the DfE guidelines:

- consistent involvement of parents or other significant carers – it is expected that parents or significant carers would play a substantial role, although not necessarily constantly or actively involved in providing education
- recognition of the child’s needs, attitudes and aspirations
- opportunities for the child to be stimulated by their learning experiences
- access to resources/materials required to provide home education for the child – such as paper and pens, books and libraries, arts and crafts materials, physical activity, ICT and the opportunity for appropriate interaction with other children and other adults.

5.18 If, following the second meeting with parents no evidence or insufficient evidence has been provided by the parents to satisfy the EHE Coordinator that a suitable education is being delivered, the EHE Coordinator will discuss the situation with the a Senior EWO. Strategies will be explored to engage the child with some form of suitable education.

5.19 In such a case the EHE Coordinator will advise the parent, in writing of the LA’s concerns and make recommendations with timescales to ensure that the child receives a suitable education. The parent will also be advised of the possible consequences of not providing such an education, both for themselves and in terms of the impact on the child. The EHE Coordinator will continue to offer advice and guidance to support parents in delivering a “suitable and efficient” education.

5.20 Where it is clear following all reasonable attempts to address concerns that progress in providing a suitable education has not been made, the EHE Coordinator will refer the matter to the Team Leader, Education Welfare and a formal notice (see Sections 4.3 & 4.4) may be issued. The EHE Coordinator will aim to keep a constructive relationship with parents during this process and to act in the interests of the child’s welfare. In a minority of cases the outcome of this process may result in School Attendance Order proceedings being initiated. The aim will always be to resolve difficulties without recourse to this.

5.21 If, following the second meeting with the EHE Coordinator it is evident that the child is receiving a suitable education, a third review meeting will be arranged during the following school term. From this point, where there are no causes for concern,

review meetings will be offered on a twice yearly or yearly basis, according to parental preference, until the child ceases to be of compulsory school age.

- 5.22 At any stage where the EHE Coordinator or parent identifies concerns about the child's welfare or progress, the frequency of meetings may be increased to address particular issues about the child's education and other agencies may be contacted by the EHE Coordinator. This may lead to the completion of an Early Help Assessment and the identification of a Lead Professional. (See Section 6). Again, the EHE Coordinator will aim to maintain a positive and constructive relationship with parents.