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You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that this will not necessarily exclude the public right of access.

View your response

Personal Details

- Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.
- Please tick if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.
- Please tick if we can contact you in the future.
- Please tick if you would like us to acknowledge your response.
- Please tick if you would like us to inform you when the consultation results are published.

Respondent Information Questions

Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent.

- Home educated child/young person
- Home educating parent
- Organisation representing home educating families
- Local Authorities
- Other organisation with responsibility for children (please specify in box below)
- Other (please specify in box below)

Please Specify: Voice the Union for Education Professionals

Consultation Questions

1

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?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response

Comments: We agree that the proposals strike an appropriate balance, although more detailed guidance on the implementation of these proposals needs to be provided to ensure fairness and consistency of practice between Local Authorities and also to give the assurance to Home Educators who may be suspicious about how these new powers could be used/abused by the Local Authorities.

2

Do you agree that a register should be kept?

- Agree
- Disagree

- Not sure
- No Response

Comments:

3

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

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response

Comments:

4

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

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response

Comments:

5

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

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response

Comments: We agree that there must be a serious sanction for deliberately failing to register or provide correct information although this needs to be distinguished from minor or inadvertent infringements.

6 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?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response

Comments: We agree with the principle of there being a transitional phase, but are concerned that on the one hand this could cause practical difficulties for schools especially at the beginning of a new school year when applications from others may have to be refused and on the other hand that 20 days may not be long enough for Home Educators to decide whether they have made the right decision.

6 b)

Do you agree that the school should provide the local authority with achievement and future attainment data?

- Agree

- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response*

Comments: We are not opposed to this in principle, but are concerned about practical difficulties for schools of having to provide this data outside of their normal assessment and reporting procedures.

Perhaps this requirement could be restricted to the latest data available. We have concerns about reliability and validity of projected attainment data and their relevance to programmes of home education which may be incommensurate with the National Curriculum

7

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

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response*

Comments:

8

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

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response*

Comments: Safeguarding concerns need to be substantiated so that appropriate action can be taken as if parents are not fit to home educate they may not be fit to parent.

9

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

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response*

Comments: We do not disagree with the principle of home visits but believe two weeks may be too short (eg parents may spend two weeks or more on holiday and home educated families may be more likely to take holidays during term time). We suggest that a month maybe more appropriate.

10

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?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response*

Comments: If there are safeguarding concerns about the child, it would be more appropriate to use

intervention and monitoring procedures that are already in place for social worker visits.

11

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.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure
- No Response*

Comments: The requirement to visit within four weeks may put unnecessary pressure on Local Authorities as well as on the home educators themselves who may require more time to establish a stable pattern. A timescale of 8-12 weeks may be more realistic followed by annual visits. For more frequent monitoring to take place detailed guidelines need to be devised so that Home Educators are aware of their duties and responsibilities.