

# Merthyr's Education Strategy for Supporting Children & Young People with Elective Home Education

## What do we mean by Elective Home Education?

Parents may opt to educate their child at home rather than send them to school. ***"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education suitable – (a) to his/her age, ability and aptitude, and (b) to any special educational needs he/she may have, Either by regular attendance at school or otherwise"*** (Section 7, 1996 Education Act).

In legal terms, an education is 'efficient' if it achieves

what it sets out to achieve and 'suitable' if the education prepares the child for life in modern civilised society and enables the child to achieve his full potential. Parents/carers do not need to seek permission from the LA to begin home education, but, where the child is already attending school, they must notify the school in writing of their intention to do so. There is no requirement for parents to apply the National Curriculum, to operate school hours or to give formal 'lessons'. However, if the pupil has a Statement of Educational

Needs and is registered at a special school, parents must obtain the consent of the LA to withdraw their child from the school. (Education (Pupil Registration) Regulation 9(2), 1995); (Amended, Wales, 2001/1109). This regulation is to enable LAs to maintain continuity in their responsibility for pupils with Special Educational Needs, rather than to be a hindrance to these pupils being educated at home. The LAs statutory duty to undertake an Annual Review of a pupil's Special Educational Needs remains.

The Annual Review should assess whether the statement is still appropriate and make any necessary alterations. Should it be required that the statement is to be maintained, the parent(s)/carer continue to have responsibility for the education provided; however, the LA has a legal duty to ensure that the child's needs are met.



## Websites and Additional Information

- [Inclusion and Pupil Support National Assembly for Wales Circular 47/2006](http://www.wales.gov.uk/inclusionandpupilsupport)
- [www.wales.gov.uk/inclusionandpupilsupport](http://www.wales.gov.uk/inclusionandpupilsupport)
- [Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales \(2002\)](http://www.education-otherwise.org) National Assembly for Wales
- Education Otherwise Association Limited [www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)
- Home Education Advisory Service [www.heas.org.uk](http://www.heas.org.uk)

## Traveller Families

The special position of Traveller families is also recognised in law (section 444(6), Education Act 1996). Traveller parent(s)/carer are protected from conviction if the parent(s)/carer can demonstrate that:

- He or she is engaged in a trade or business of such a nature as requires travel from place to place
- The child has attended at a school as a registered pupil as regularly as the nature of that trade or business permits  
The child, where aged six or over, has attended school for at least 200 sessions (half days) during the preceding twelve months.

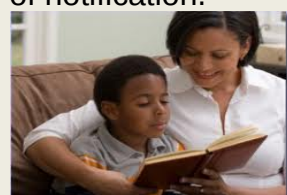
## Supporting Complex Needs

In the event of there being concerns regarding Child Protection, the Authority's Child Protection Officer will be informed and advice taken accordingly.

Where a pupil has a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the LA maintains responsible for ensuring that the child's needs are being met and will continue to undertake an Annual Review.

## Responsibilities of the School

When the school receives notice in writing that parents wish to educate their child at home, it is the duty of the head teacher to inform the LA, in writing, that they have removed the child from the register. This must be done **within 10 school days** of notification.



## Responsibilities of the Local Authority

The LA is obliged to keep a register of pupils electively educated at home. This is maintained by the Advisory Teacher with responsibility for Pupils Electively Educated At Home.

In order to satisfy itself that the education received at home is suitable, the LA will implement the following procedures:

- Make contact with the family within 20 school days
- Meet with the pupil's previous school to gain information about the pupil's progress and ability

- Seek advice and guidance from other agencies that have been involved
- Meet with the family to find out how they intend to meet their child's educational needs
- Offer a visit each term to provide advice and guidance
- Where provision is not suitable, the case will be referred to the LAs legal department

## Complaints Procedure

Contact the Advisory Teacher on 01685 724605. This will be referred to the ALN Manager if it cannot be resolved.