

Oxfordshire SEN EHE FOI Response January 2013

1/ Could you please tell me:

A	the total number of children in your authority with a statement of SEN	1994
B	the number of home educated children in your authority with a statement of SEN	5
C	the number of home educated children of primary age with a statement of SEN	1
D	the number of home educated children of secondary age with a statement of SEN	4
E	the number of statements for home educated children categorised as having "moderate learning difficulty" (if the authority has a banding system, please could you indicate the number of home educated children within the relevant statement bands)	1
F	the number of statements for home educated children with physical disabilities	0
G	the number of statements for home educated children with speech, language and communication needs	1
H	the number of statements for home educated children with autism spectrum disorders	2
I	the number of statements for home educated children with severe or complex learning difficulties (if the authority has a banding system, please could you indicate the number of home educated children within the relevant statement bands)	1
J	the number of home educated children with a statement of SEN who formerly attended a special school (if known)	2
K	the number of children with a statement of SEN who started home education during the calendar year 2012	0
L	the number of children with a statement of SEN who have been home educated for more than 2 years	4
M	the number of home educated children with a statement of SEN who have been home educated for more than 5 years	0
N	the number of children with a statement of SEN who ceased to be home educated during the calendar year 2012 because they started to attend school	1

2/ Within your authority - not including the provision of assessments/reports for the annual review of the statement of SEN - do home educated children have access to any of the following:

Where provision is specified in part 3, 5 or 6 of the statement, access to the provision is made available.

a/ educational psychology service:

Generally only assessments/reports for the annual review

b/ occupational therapy services and equipment.

yes

c/ speech and language therapy.

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yes
d/ CAMHS
yes

3/ Does the authority have a specific policy with regard to provision of services and support listed in Part 3 of the statement when a child with a statement of SEN is home educated? If yes, could you please summarise the policy, for example if the authority does not make provision available when a child is home educated

The authority has a policy on elective home education and also a Protocol for the management of statemented children.

From the Policy:

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

- *Where a child has a statement of SEN and is home educated, it remains the local authority's duty to ensure that the child's needs are met. The Code of Practice is statutory guidance and schools, local authorities and others to whom it applies must have regard to it. OCC works in partnership with parents, providers and other agencies in these matters. (DCSF Elective Home Education Guidance, November 2007). Please refer to our Protocol for the Management of Statemented Children who are Educated at Home*

From the Protocol:

Local Authority Responsibilities

- *Where parents of a statemented child choose to educate him/her at home, it remains the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that the child's needs are met.*
- *The Local Authority will only be relieved of its duty to arrange the provision specified in the child's statement if it is satisfied that the parents' arrangements are suitable.*
- *If the Local Authority is satisfied with the parents' arrangements it will continue to have a duty to maintain and review the statement annually until: it decides to cease the statement; or the statement automatically lapses; or the statement is transferred to another Local Authority.*
- *If the Local Authority is satisfied with the parents' home provision it need not specify the name of a school in Part 4 of the statement (Section 324(4A) Education Act 1996).*
- *If the child is on the roll of a special school, the child's name may not be removed from the school register without the Local Authority's consent, or if the Local Authority refuses to give its consent, at the Secretary of State's direction (Regulation 8(2) Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006).*

Practice & Procedure

Parents must be made aware of their responsibilities under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 and in particular to provide for their child's special educational needs.

If parents insist on educating their child at home the following will apply:

(1) If registered at a special school, the child's name must not be removed from the register until the home provision has been monitored and deemed satisfactory.

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(2) *In order to assess whether home provision is satisfactory, there will be a trial period (usually 4 weeks) of home education during which the parents will be asked to provide evidence of suitable home provision.*

(3) *If the Local Authority is not satisfied with the parents' home provision, it will not be absolved of its responsibility to arrange the provision in the child's statement. Where the child remains registered at a special school, the SEN Officer will consider whether to initiate proceedings for school attendance orders if it has not been possible to address the situation informally.*

(4) *If the Local Authority is satisfied with the home provision arrangements, the SEN Officer will decide whether it is necessary for a statement to remain in place. If it is decided that a statement is no longer necessary, the procedures for ceasing statements must be followed.*

(5) *If the SEN Officer decides the statement should remain in place, the statement will be maintained and reviewed annually and amended where necessary.*

- *Evidence presented to the annual review will be coordinated by the SEN Officer and the meeting will also be attended by the Elective Home Education Monitor and include an 'Education at Home Monitoring Report'. Monitoring visits will be timed to coincide with the annual review.*
- *The annual review will be arranged by the Special Educational Needs Officer.*
- *A decision will be made at the review as to whether the Local Authority is "satisfied" that the educational needs as stipulated in the statement are being met.*
- *In the event that the Local Authority is not satisfied the monitor will coordinate a second visit 15 days later to collect agreed evidence.*
- *If the evidence not be made available at the second meeting the Special Educational Needs Officer will then name an educational provision which can meet need and the parents will be informed of their duty to ensure the young person attends*

4/ How many home educated children with a statement of SEN will be entered on the Alternative Provision Census under the category Not a School, for SEN support (deadline Thursday January 17th <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/parents/involvement/homeeducation/a0073322/funding-for-home-education>)

17 January is Census Day, and the deadline for submission of the data is Friday 8 March. Therefore, at the time of writing this data has not been compiled.

However, children whose parents have decided to educate them at home are not included in the Alternative Provision return "*unless the local authority is providing significant support to enable the child to attend a college of further education or another alternative provider, or to support their special educational needs*".

Oxfordshire did not count any of the 5 home educated children in the 2012 Alternative Provision Census as we determined that the support provided, e.g. visits from an Advisory Teacher for Autism or speech and language therapy are not "significant support". For the 2013, the return will again state 0.