

Home Schooling: Information for Parents

By Law, you are not obliged to send your child to school and you have the right to withdraw your child from school at any time.

This is outlined in Section 7 of the Education Act of 1996, which states:

Duty of parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable—

(a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and

(b) to any special educational needs he may have,

either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

You do, however, have a duty to ensure that your child is educated. The form of this education can be decided by you and the Government and Local Authority do not have the right to dictate the manner of your child's education.

If you decide to remove your child from State Education, you must write to the Local Authority and inform them of your decision. You are not required to give a reason for removing your child from school. A proforma letter is included in this folder.

You must write to your child's school and inform them of your decision, asking that they be removed from the register. A proforma letter is included in this folder.

If your child has not yet started school, you do not have to register them.

The Local Authority does not have the right to visit your home or to ask you for specific details concerning your child's education, although some Local Authorities have been known to put pressure onto parents and *imply* that they have the right to conduct visits, etc. This is not the case. If you are contacted by the Local Authority and asked to provide information like this, you have the right to politely decline their intervention. A proforma letter to this effect is included in this folder.

We do not advise that you allow a Local Authority official to visit your home. We advise instead that you politely but firmly decline their intervention. A proforma letter is included in this folder.