

How the action of the police affects the family

Unfortunately there are many instances of negative interactions with police.

Where the officer has claimed the parent is breaking the law by not sending their child to school.

Making children's services referrals because the child isn't in school.

Claiming a right to see what the child is learning etc.

Home education is perfectly legal, and the LA has the right to take steps if there are concerns about the education. This is not a police matter.

Unnecessary welfare referrals often result in time consuming and upsetting assessments, usually down to ignorance of home education.

If you believe there are concerns about the education you should contact the EHE team at the LA.

Where can I find out more about home education?

Independent home education services such as www.educationalfreedom.org.uk

Or the government EHE guidance

will have up to date information about home education and the legalities.

Home education awareness



The facts and myths

What is home education ?

Home education is a legal alternative to school.

Home educated children can be any age from 5 to late teens.

Children 5+ must be in receipt of education.

Home educated children are not required to be home in the day.

Many home educated children will go out alone or with friends during 'school hours'.

Home education is not school at home.

Learning often takes place in ways you would not expect.

What to do if you see a child not in school

If the child is in school uniform then it would be right to assume they are registered at school and you should follow your procedures.

If the child is not in uniform and is with a parent, it can be assumed the parent is taking care of their child. No action needed.

If the child is alone, consider they may be home educated, however, if you feel they are in any danger it wouldn't be unreasonable to speak to them. If they say they are home educated, and you have no concerns about their safety, it would be sensible to let them be on their way, no further action required.

A child has been reported to you as not in school

It would be prudent to check if you already know if the child is home educated.

Some neighbours report local children regularly, without valid reason, you may already know the child is HE and therefore no action is required.

If you contact the parent it is recommended you do not make claims that are not correct. For example: home educators do not have to be checked by the local authority. And you do not have to forward their details to children's services unless you have valid safeguarding concerns (home education is not a safeguarding issue).

Once you know the child is home educated, that should be the end of your enquiry.