



**Confederation**  
of School Trusts

## **Consultation: Elective home education guidance review**

### **Response of the Confederation of School Trusts**

The Confederation of School Trusts is the national organisation and sector body for academy trusts. Almost three million children are educated in our members' schools, which places us in a strong position to consider this issue from the viewpoint of the system's leaders in self-governing organisations.

We understand that parents have no legal duty to inform schools of the reason(s) for withdrawal or to explain what alternative education their child is receiving. However, the regulations on 'Deletions from Admission Register' also make clear that schools can only remove a child from their register upon receiving 'written notification from the parent that the pupil is receiving education otherwise than at school.' (The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, Section 8 (1)(d), emphasis added.)

Where a written notification of withdrawal lacks definitive information about whether the child 'is receiving education otherwise than at school', our members are unsure of their immediate legal responsibilities and are receiving conflicting advice and information. Local authorities are advising our members not to remove the child from their register until such time as the local authority has had a chance to investigate. By contrast, online home education advice websites provide templates and information to parents that emphasise the school's responsibility to action the withdrawal with immediate effect and suggest it is illegal for schools to delay, for example here at [educationfreedom.org](https://educationfreedom.org).

This is further complicated by the fact that these written requests to withdraw often come in the wake of a permanent exclusion notification or when the child is at risk of exclusion. Our members know that 'off-rolling' is illegal. We are concerned that the ambiguity outlined above is a risk. Trusts therefore require clear, unambiguous guidance on their legal responsibilities following receipt of a written notification of withdrawal from a parent/carer that lacks definitive information about the child's current educational provision.

We are happy to liaise with you around potential amendments to the guidance that will achieve the required level of clarity. If you have any questions, our main point of contact on this matter is our Director of Trust Governance, Samira Sadeghi, who can be reached at [s.sadeghi@cstuk.org.uk](mailto:s.sadeghi@cstuk.org.uk).