



London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale, NW9 4EW
5 May 2021
Our ref: 7277600

Thank you for your request received on 1 May 2021, for the following information:

- 1. What are the requirements for parents home schooling children?**
- 2. What involvement does the LA have (please answer the full extent of involvement and the maximum involvement they are allowed to have, including but not ltd to home contact).**
- 3. Do I have legal rights to decline home visits from the LA?**
- 4. Do the LA have any legal rights to request information and/or to see my child's homeschooling work?**
- 5. Do the LA have any right to force me to put my child into school and if so, under what circumstances?**
- 6. Do the LA have a right to pressure me into following the school curriculum? (Even though the government states this does not need to be done).**
- 7. If I move house to an area under a different LA which LA will I liaise with in regards to homeschooling.**
- 8. If the LA have a right to request home visits or any other requests. What notice do they have to give me?**
- 9. What help can I request from the LA?**
- 10. If available where can I access some teaching resources?**

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below.

- 1. What are the requirements for parents home schooling children?***

The requirements for parents is comply with, Section 7 of the Education Act 1996: 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.

2. What involvement does the LA have (please answer the full extent of involvement and the maximum involvement they are allowed to have, including but not ltd to home contact).

The LA will contact all parents of children who are Electively Home Educated to ensure that Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 is being complied with. Contact may include: Email, telephone, virtual meetings and home visits as well as the sharing of information. Parent's can decide how often they would like to contact us, the LA will contact families on an Annual basis unless there is to reason to contact more frequently.

3. Do I have legal rights to decline home visits from the LA?

Yes, you can decline a home visit.

4. Do the LA have any legal rights to request information and/or to see my child's homeschooling work?

The LA have a legal duty to ensure all children are in receipt of an education. To establish whether a child is receiving a suitable education the LA requires sufficient evidence to prove this. This evidence can be provided in whatever form a parent chooses however, it must allow the LA to determine whether it meets the criteria of Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

5. Do the LA have any right to force me to put my child into school and if so, under what circumstances?

If a child is not in receipt of a suitable education, and all attempts made by LA to support parents with this, have failed. Then a School Attendance Order process will be initiated.

6. Do the LA have a right to pressure me into following the school curriculum? (Even though the government states this does not need to be done).

No, LA's should not be pressuring parents to follow a particular curriculum.

7. If I move house to an area under a different LA which LA will I liaise with in regards to homeschooling.

You liaise with the borough you reside in.

8. If the LA have a right to request home visits or any other requests. What notice do they have to give me?

The communication between LA and EHE families should be supportive and free flowing, any home visit requests will be made for when is convenient due to some EHE families providing education outside of the home. Where there is regular communication there will not be a 'notice period', for those families who prefer not to have regular communication we will give an approximation of 6 weeks' notice,

although this is case by case dependent.

9. What help can I request from the LA?

You can request support, advice and guidance on any aspect of your home education journey.

10. If available where can I access some teaching resources?

Parents who wish to home educate must research and obtain their own resources.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.