

Welcome

Children Missing Education Database

Making sure all children and young people in Wales get an education.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Hello

The Welsh Government wants all children in Wales to be safe and get a good education. We want to prepare them for life and their future.

We don't want any child to miss out.

The law

The Education Act 1996 says local authorities (councils) must:

- do everything they can to find out which children live in their area
- make sure all children in their area have an education that meets their needs.

The Education Act 2002 says local authorities must:

- make sure all children in their area have an education
- are safe and well in all areas of their life.



That means they **have to know** which children live in the area so they can check they're getting an education.

The situation

In Wales every child must have an education. But it can happen in different ways:



We don't want any children to miss out on having an education.



Local authority schools



✔ Local authorities already know about all the children who go to schools run by them.

Independent schools



✔ They know about children at independent or private schools.

Educated at home



✔ They know about children who've been taken out of school to be educated at home and have checked what type of education they are getting.

✘ But they may not know about all home educated children. That's because, if a child's never been to school, parents don't have to let a local authority know that they intend to educate at home.



Missing education

Some children may not be getting any education and the local authority does not know about them at all.

What we want to do

The regulations (rules) we have written will help local authorities know about children living in their area. As part of the rules **local health boards** must share information they have about children and young people with the local authority. This **includes** the child's:



name



address



gender



date of birth

It does **not** include any medical records.

This means the local authority can check the health information against their records.

The problem

Knowing who all the children are who live in the area, doesn't show local authorities if all those children are getting an education.

Each local authority has different ways to check if children are getting an education:

Some have better systems for checking than others.

Some collect more information than others.

Some work closely with other organisations and help each other.

Local authorities should try and follow up on all children who move in and out of the local authority.

So, unless the child goes to school or parents tell the local authority they're home educating their child, the local authority may not know about them.



This means some children and young people in Wales could be missing out on an education. It could also mean some children are at risk of harm.



A solution

We want new regulations (rules) that make it possible for local authorities to have a

Children Missing Education Database.

The database would **only** include children who are:

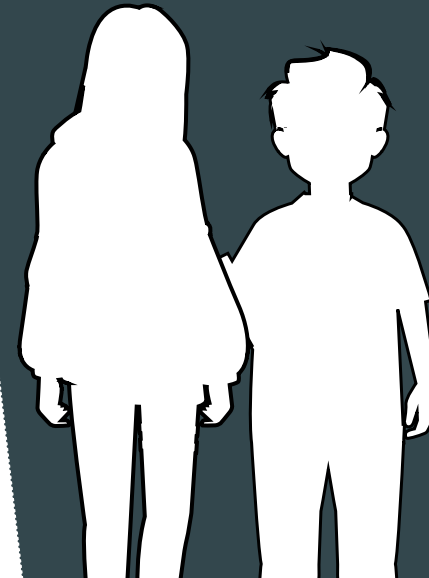
- **not** getting an education at school
- **not** getting education otherwise than at school (EOTAS)
- **not** known to be having a suitable education at home
- **not** known to the local authority.



The local authority will then need to follow up with families on the database. This will help make sure all children have their rights.

All children have rights set out in the United Nations Convention on The Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

- Article 28 — All children and young people have the right to education, no matter who they are.
- Article 12 — Children and young people have the right to have a say in decisions that affect their lives.



How it will work

Gathering information

Each year local authorities would collect information about children and young people from:

- schools — primary, middle, secondary, nursery, special schools, independent and private schools
- the local health board.

They will also look at other information they have on children who are educated at home or educated outside of school (EOTAS provision).

They can use this information to put together a full list of school aged children living in their area.

Checking information

They can use all this information to:

- check registers and see if the child is in school
- check pupils at pupil referral units (PRUs)
- check to see if they are aware the child is being home educated and that they're having a suitable and efficient education.

This will help them find children missing education.

Adding names to the new Database.

If they find a child who is **not getting an education** or the local authority is unsure, their name would be added to the **Children Missing Education Database**.

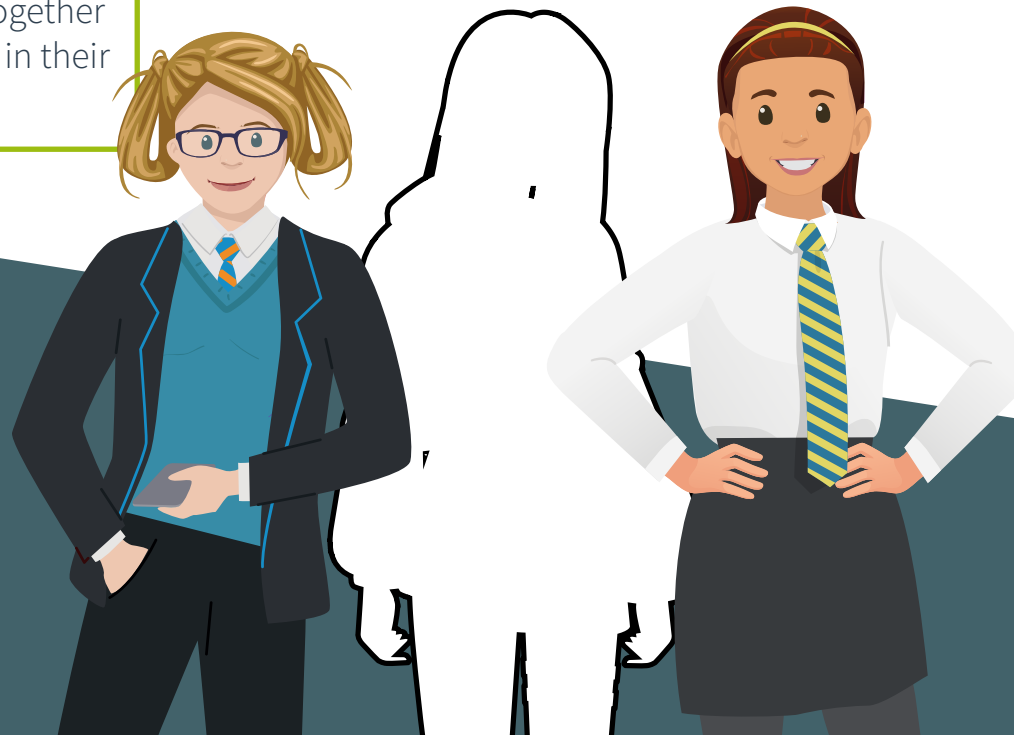
Their name will be removed once the local authority is sure the child is getting an education.

Managing the Database

Each local authority would look after and manage their own Children Missing Education Database.

It will **not** be shared with other local authorities.

This would mean local authorities are able to follow the law.



What do you think?



Question 1

Do you think this will help local authorities know about all children in their area and make sure they get an education?

Yes **No** **Don't know**



Question 2

Do you think this will help local authorities make sure children are cared for, safe and having their needs met?

Yes **No** **Don't know**



Question 3 – Do you think local health boards should share the name, address, gender and date of birth of a child with the local authority?

Yes **No** **Don't know**

Do you think this is enough information to help them find children missing education?

Yes **No** **Don't know**



Question 4 – Can you think of any other ways local authorities can find children missing education?

Yes **No** **Don't know**

How?



Question 5

Do you think this has any advantages or disadvantages for parents or carers?

Yes **No** **Don't know**

What?

Do you think this has any advantages or disadvantages for you, or other children and young people?

Yes **No** **Don't know**

What?



Question 6

We think local health boards should have to share information once a year. Do you think that's a good idea?

Yes **No** **Don't know**

Some last questions?



Question

Some people might need more support to take part and get involved in an education than others because of protected characteristics like:

- race
- religion
- sexuality
- disability.

Do you think this will affect any groups more than others?

Yes **No** **Don't know**

How?



Question

How do you think this will affect the Welsh language or people's opportunity to use it?



Question

Is there anything else you want to say about this?

Thank you

