

Appendix D : Parental Agreement Form

Many of our concerns about this form are repetitions of points raised regarding Lancashire County Council's EHE Protocols document. The form includes all the usual misquotes of the law, statutory guidance and EHE Guidelines so prevalent throughout this LA's EHE documentation.

All that is required in law is enough information to satisfy a reasonable person that a suitable education is taking place. This form demands that parents provide far more than this. The LA should be careful of asking for too much information which could be considered an invasion of family privacy. Also, under the Data Protection Act only information necessary for the purpose stated can be gathered. We have to question the purpose of gathering this superfluous information.

If there was a need for such detailed information about families who home educate, the law would have been changed to ensure that all home educators are registered with their Local Authorities. This is not the case. Home educators do not have to notify the LA if they do not wish to do so. Similarly, there is no legal requirement for parents to notify the LA when their contact details change. It is wrong of Lancashire County Council to force parents to sign a form agreeing to such demands which are more than is required by law.

It could be claimed that the LA needs this level of detail in order to help and advise families but the overriding evidence from families is that the LA does not provide any help or advice. E.g. they do not put new home educators in touch with the local HE community yet ask families about such groups. If the information were required to help the LA provide services to HE families details of the services available would be provided to HE families and it would be made clear that provision of the information was not compulsory.

We know from comments by families presented with this form that they were led to believe that completing and signing it was compulsory. This view is reinforced by the visiting EHE officers referring to the parent's "intention to HE", remarks such as "this is optional" and a lack of anywhere to sign if you wish to continue HE but do not agree to the LA's ultra vires demands. We have also had families report that they were told not that they were not to leave particular fields empty.

Finally, it is absurd to ask parents to sign to agree to comply with the law. The duty to provide an efficient, full-time education suitable to a child's age, aptitude and ability and any special educational needs exists whether parents sign this form or not; they do not need to agree with the LA to take on this duty.

2. Please complete the boxes below for each parent/carer.	
Name:	
Relationship to Child:	
Home Address:	
Telephone number:	
Will you be involved in the home education?	
Name:	
Relationship to Child:	
Home Address:	
Telephone number:	
Will you be involved in the home education?	
Name:	
Relationship to Child:	
Home Address:	
Telephone number:	
Will you be involved in the home education?	
Name:	
Relationship to Child:	
Home Address:	
Telephone number:	
Will you be involved in the home education?	

3. Ethnic origin of your child. <u>*This is optional.</u> Please place each child's initials next to their ethnic origin.			
Bangladesh		Pakistan	
Black African		Traveller of Irish Origin	
Black Caribbean		Gypsy/Roma	
Black other		White British	
Chinese		White	
Indian		Other (please Specify)	
Irish		Choose not to Specify	

About the Education:**1. Why have you chosen to educate your child at home? Please place each child's initial alongside the main reason for that child.**

Attendance / prosecution	Not preferred school
Bullying	Particular talent
Dissatisfaction with school	Philosophical
Emotional / Behavioural Difficulties	Problems with Special Educational Needs
Lifestyle / Cultural	Racism / Homophobia
Medical / Child	Religious beliefs
Medical / Parent	School refuser / Phobic
At risk of exclusion	
Other (please specify):	

2. Private tutor.

Will you be using a private tutor? If 'No' please go to Section 3.	
If 'Yes', which subjects will they cover?	
Will the teaching take place at the family home by the tutor or at the tutor's own house?	
Please list the tutor's home address:	
Lancashire County Council recommends that all tutors should be CRB cleared. Does your tutor have CRB clearance?	

3. Your child's views.

We feel it is important to obtain your child's own views about being educated at home. We would therefore like to encourage your child to answer the following questions in their own words. If there is more than one child, please place their initials beside their comments.

How do you feel about not going to school? Can you think of any good and bad points?

How do you feel about home education? Can you think of any good and bad points?

Would you like to go to school in the future if it was an option?

Is there anything you would like to ask about home education? (The EHE Support Officer's response should also be recorded here).

Are there any other comments that you would like to make?

4. Your child's learning plan.

The 1996 Education Act Section 7 requires that you provide an education that is suitable to your child's 'age, ability and aptitude' and to any special educational needs they have.

Are you happy / confident to have chosen home education for your child? If 'No' please give reasons why in as much detail as possible.

Are you aware of what home education will involve for you and your child?

What are your concerns (if any) for home educating your child?

Is there any information that you feel would be useful in your role as a home educator? Please list this below.

Would you consider sending your child to school in the future? If 'No' please give a reason.

What do you hope your child will achieve by being home educated?

Is this a long-term or a short-term plan? If it is short-term, please give an estimate of how long you intend to home educate and why.

Does your child have a statement of educational needs? If so, when was it awarded and when did the last annual review take place? (Please list details for each statemented child).

Do you intend to follow the National Curriculum? If 'Yes' please list the subjects that you intend to cover.

If 'No', will you be following any other accredited course/syllabus? If 'Yes' please list what this is and what subjects you intend to cover.

If you will be following your own personal programme of learning, please list the subjects/topics that you intend to cover.

Will your child be taking exams? If so, please list when you expect your child to take these exams and what subjects they will be taking.

Are you aware of where your child can sit these exams i.e. in your local area?

Government guidelines cite that education at home should be 'full-time', which equates to approximately 20 hours per week. How do you intend to plan your child's day? (for example, follow a structured timetable; be child-led; be practically-based etc). If you go to work, what provisions will you have in place to ensure your child receives a full-time education?

How will you monitor and record your child's progress?

What resources will you use to help educate your child? Please indicate those resources that your child already has access to.

How will you ensure your child has the opportunity to develop his/her social skills? Will your child have the opportunity to interact with children of their own (or a similar) age?

How will you ensure that your child can exercise and develop his/her physical skills?

The Children's Act of 2004 outlines the Every Child Matters agenda: its aims are to ensure that every child stays healthy, stays safe, enjoys and achieves, makes a positive contribution and attains economic wellbeing. This includes children who are home educated. Please could you list any suggestions below on how you could include these in your child's education:

Do you know of any other support/advice that is available to you?
(This could include local support groups, publications etc)

The Lancashire Young People's Services offers a wide range of support and advice for young people aged between 13 and 25 years old. Would you consider receiving contact from this Service?

If you would be happy for us to forward your details on the this Service, please sign below.

Yes I am happy for my details to be forwarded on to Lancashire Young People's Service

Signed

Would you be interested in receiving contact from the NHS about immunisation for your child (i.e. the HPV vaccine for Years 8, 10 and 11 girls)?

If you would be happy for us to forward your details on to this Service, please sign below.

Yes I am happy for my details to be forwarded on to the NHS Immunisation Team

Signed

We find that many home educating parents would be interested in joining or forming a group of other home educators in their local area. Do you know of any home educating groups in your local area? Please give contact details if known.

Would you be interested in joining a group in your local area if this was available?

Would you be happy for us to forward your details onto a local home educating group? If so, please sign below.

Signed

Are there any other comments you would like to make / issues you would like to raise? Please list these below.

How would you like to maintain future contact with your EHE Support Officer in order to discuss your child's progress? Please place your initials next to your preferred choice:

- I would like to continue receiving visits from my EHE Support Officer.
- I would prefer to submit my own written report, with evidence, on my child's progress.

NB: Visits will be conducted / reports requested on an annual basis unless otherwise arranged with your EHE Support Officer.

Thank you for completing this form. Your comments will help us to continue to improve our Service for all home educated young people.

Contract of Parental Agreement

I(Block Capitals) have discussed my plan of learning for my child

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with the attending EHE Support Officer

I understand what is expected of me in home educating my child and by signing below, I have agreed to provide a suitable, full-time education for my child based on their age, ability and needs. I understand that Lancashire County Council has a duty to ensure this and agree to maintain contact with them through visits / sending in my own reports (delete as necessary). I understand that by refusing contact, my child may be referred to the Children Missing Education Team.

I also agree to inform the EHE Support Officer if my telephone number or address changes, or if I decide to leave the area. I acknowledge that by failing to do so, my child may be referred to the Children Missing Education Team.

Signed parent:	Date:
Name:	

Signed EHE Support Officer:	Date:
Name:	

* Note to parent – if you have decided not to sign the contract of parental agreement because you no longer wish to home educate, please sign below.

Having discussed home education for my child with the Attending Support Officer, I have decided that I no longer wish to pursue this option. My reasons for this are (please list in as much detail as possible):

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.....
.....

I understand that my child will be referred to the Children Missing Education Team and steps will be taken to place my child back into mainstream education.

Signed parent:	Date:
Name:	

Signed EHE Support Officer:	Date:
Name:	