

Home Education Policy

2025

Education Support Services

Education Services

HOME EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT: EDUCATION SERVICES

West Lothian Council recognises that home education is a key aspect of parental choice.

In terms of Education legislation, carers are also classed as parents in terms of Section 135 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. "Parent" includes guardian and any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities (within the meaning of section 1(3) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) in relation to, or has care of a child or young person.

This policy statement highlights three main underlying principles:

- The rights of a child/young person under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
- the value of parents' views and the decisions that they make in relation to their child's education; and
- the necessity to build relationships of trust and mutual respect with parents and children to support them in the choices by offering advice, information and guidance where feasible.

West Lothian Council's Home Education policy is based on the Scottish Government's current guidance on home education.

Every child has a right to an education and the responsibility for a child's education rests with their parent. Whilst most parents fulfil this responsibility by sending their children to school, others may choose to provide home-based education.

Home education is a right conditional upon the parents providing an efficient education suitable to the age, ability and aptitude of the child. Choosing the option of home education does not in itself require permission from the local authority. Permission from the local authority is required, however, to withdraw a child/young person from a local authority school.

The general legislative provisions relating to this policy are contained in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

The implementation of this policy is supported by the operational procedures contained within the "Home Education and Flexi Schooling Guidance for Families and Schools" document.

References: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/home-education-guidance-2/>

Home Education and Flexi Schooling Guidance for Families and Schools

Service Manager: Kristyna Macsween, Additional Support Needs and Inclusion Improvement Manager, Education Services

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(Subject to further revision following publication of any future updated Scottish Government Guidance)