

Press Release Thursday 28th January 2010

EO Asks if Government Guidance Contradict Assurances from the Minister about Home Education Funding?

On November 12th in the House of Commons Minister Diana Johnson said:

"So far as local authority support for the education of home educated pupils is concerned, we plan to strengthen the school census guidance for the January 2010 return to ensure that all local authorities are aware that they can already include in the Alternative Provision Return for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) home educated pupils whom they support financially and who have a statement, or have significant special educational needs that have not been formally recognised through a statement; and pupils whom they fund to attend college for post-14 qualifications including GCSEs and Diplomas. These pupils will then count as a unit for DSG purposes."

DCSF Guidance Notes for Alternative Provision dated January 28th 2010 state that "Pupils taught at home only includes those pupils who are receiving LA funding (i.e. this **excludes** those educated at home by parental choice)"

There is a helpful table on page 17 of the guidance which sets out the criteria for inclusion in the census return.

"Pupil whose parents have elected to educate at home (EHE)(**).
Include: ? No
Category: Not applicable."

Ann Newstead, Trustee of Education Otherwise and Media Spokesperson commented "It's hard to see what is really going on here. Perhaps you need to be an expert. But from local authorities I've talked to, either the Government will allow the authority to draw down funding for home education support or it won't. Saying that home education is "not applicable" seems pretty clear to us."

Fiona Nicholson, Trustee of Education Otherwise said "The Department will only consider refunding home educated children who are already funded by the local authority, yet the guidance notes specifically instruct local authorities not to include home educated children in any funding applications."

Annette Taberner, Trustee of Education Otherwise said "We hope that MPs will be able to get clarification from the Minister shortly"

Notes for editors:

Diana Johnson House of Commons November 12th 2009 -

<http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091112/>

<text/91112w0082.htm>

DCSF Guidance Notes for Alternative Provision January 28th 2010 -
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=14536>

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