

NEELB current procedures on Elective Home Education

Adapted from notes from a meeting with officers from the NEELB Schools' Branch on June 3rd. These notes have been agreed by those present.

1. Deregistration is effective immediately – by letter to the school, school will contact the ELB
2. Around a month later DW or FM ring the parents to introduce themselves.
3. They ask for a '1st preliminary visit' about 3-6 months in. DW described the home visit as the 'gold standard' and desirable. SD raised the concern that it was beneficial for the Board but only if they have a legal duty to monitor, and perhaps not so positive for parents.
4. If the family don't want to meet and their reason seems good, they opt instead for a meeting without the children at some other venue
5. The meeting usually takes the format of a friendly chat – “tell me what you're doing”, “what is your week like?” after the meeting DW would type up her notes, including any concerns or points for action (“Areas for Development” - which would be discussed during the meeting) and send a copy to parents. Parents would be given an opportunity to make any corrections, additions or objections.
6. If the parent would rather not meet at all then they would accept a list of resources/educational philosophy. They had only one in which this had happened – which had escalated.
7. DW would then expect to check back in one year for another meeting.
8. If, and both DW and FM emphasised strongly that this would only be **in extremis**; if there was no indication whatsoever that an education was taking place, then they would refer to the Education Welfare Officer.
9. At this point it would be out of their hands but they surmised there would be a meeting, followed either by a School Attendance Order or the case being handed back to them (with an explanation that it was all actually OK, eg due to parents for example simply failing to respond to letters and no adverse consequences or assumptions).