



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0370 000 2288

Email enquiry form:

www.gov.uk/contact-dfe

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Dear Parents,

We are writing to inform you that the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 received Royal Assent on 29 April. The Act will be published at <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3909/publications> soon.

As you may know, the Act contains several measures relating to children not in school, including those who are electively home educated (the Children Not in School (CNIS) measures). **When implemented**, these measures will help local authorities identify all children not in school in their areas, including those not receiving a suitable education or at risk of harm, and to take action where this is the case.

We recognise that there is a high level of interest in the CNIS measures and how they will operate. It is important to note that whilst Parliament has passed the Act, **the measures are not yet in force** and **implementation will not be immediate**.

To guide implementation, we will hold a consultation in due course on draft statutory guidance and on the policy content of associated regulations. This will contain further details about how the measures will operate. We encourage you to respond to the consultation when it is launched as we are very interested to hear your views.

Following this, there will then be a process of making the regulations, most of which will be voted on in Parliament, and further steps, including publication of the guidance and a period of pre-implementation to enable local authorities to prepare for the measures coming into force.

We hope to share further details about the timeline for this process in due course. In the meantime, we are grateful for your engagement thus far.

Kind regards,

Elective Home Education Team

Department for Education