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respondee information form

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: Highland Home Educators' Group (HHEG)

Postal Address: 3 CULBLAIR COTTAGES,
DALCROSS,
INVERNESS IV2 7JJ

** NB This is a private address and I would prefer that it was not posted on the website, if possible. Thanks.*

Consultation title: **Making the difference - Improving parents' involvement in schools**

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual? (go to 2a/b)
- (b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation? (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
- No, not at all

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested. we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ✓



2c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes No **3. SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT**

We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the SE to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes No



Highland Home Educators' Group
 3 Culblair Cottages
 Dalcross
 Inverness IV2 7JJ
 email alison@sauer.demon.co.uk

3rd June 2005

Making the difference - improving parents' involvement
 in schools

Highland Home Educators' Group's response.

HHEG welcomes initiatives to improve parental involvement in education, and broadly agrees with the draft Bill's main objectives. The comments below refer particularly to section 1 (promoting parental involvement) and section 10 (advice and information to parents).

If parents are to be encouraged to be more involved in their children's education it is essential that they receive accurate information about their rights and responsibilities as a matter of course - not just on request - well before their child/ren reach compulsory education age. Such information should explicitly state the parents' right to educate their child/ren outwith school (home-educate) and contain details of support organisations.

Additionally, we think that education authorities should have a duty to inform parents about the range of educational options

available whenever the parent (or their child) expresses concern about difficulties at school. Information about alternatives to school (home education, specialist units, education authority provision of home tuition etc) should be freely offered and not given solely as a last resort (for instance, when it is clear that a child is not thriving at school).

Finally, this draft Bill may be a good opportunity to regularise the position of flexi-schooling. Currently, part-time schooling is available at the discretion of individual headteachers. We request that education authorities should be under a duty to allow flexi-schooling at the request of any parent.

Thank you for giving HHEG the opportunity to take part in this consultation.

Rebecca Kail
on behalf of Highland Home Educators' Group