

Written evidence submitted by a Member of the Public

[Note: This evidence has been redacted by the Committee. Text in square brackets has been inserted where text has been redacted.]

Re: Home school call for evidence to oppose the registration of home schooling

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent and I currently home school my son. I would oppose the registration and monitoring of home schooling, simply because it would be too difficult to assess children's abilities within each home school. Before I made a decision to home school my child, I met with other parents who had been home schooling for a while. What appealed to me most was the distinctiveness of the different styles and approaches to learning from the different households that I met with. Some parents had chosen to give their children a Classic education and had taught them Latin and to recite lengthy poems; other parents had encouraged creativity in their learning and their children were very artistic. Other home educators that I have spoken with like to take the classroom outside a lot and take their children on few field trips each week which is quite different from a public school setting. Other parents who home schooled had recognised their children's different talents according to the subjects the child was most interested in. Consequently, these children had been encouraged to pursue their interests and talents which a public school would not be able to do, since it is so structured around a core curriculum and core subjects.

Although I currently follow the national curriculum, what I find most beneficial about a home school environment is not having to adhere to lesson plans. Instead, I will choose an approach to teaching and if I believe that the method isn't working, I will quickly change to an alternative method. If home schooling were to be monitored, then it would mean that home educators would be made to follow certain guidelines which would take the uniqueness away from the home education experience and prevent such spontaneity.

There is a need for monitoring in public schools as parents need to be informed of their child's developments, as well as have assurances that their children's education is being regulated in order for their child to achieve the best results within that educational establishment. Parents who home school, on the other hand, are aware of their child's developments since they witness, first-hand, their child's progression.

In my experience as a home school educator, I feel that monitoring home schooling would be detrimental to the system. However, further support for home schoolers to seek voluntarily would be beneficial. Online support, such as free educational material should be accessible; there could also be free training offered to home school educators and access should also be granted to exams and qualifications for home schooled children.

Yours faithfully,
[member of the public]

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