

## Text of letter to families

[Date]



Dear Parents and Carers

### **Children who are not receiving education at school**

Ofsted has been looking at the services provided by local authorities to support children educated at home as well as those who go missing from school. As part of this survey we would like to hear the views of yourselves and your children and have produced the enclosed questionnaires with a pre-paid envelope to return it to [Name and address].

The questionnaire has nothing on it that can identify you personally. The information will be used in the report to state what those who responded thought about home education, the quality of support received from local authorities and the reasons why they chose elective home education. The information will be held for three months following the publication of the report and then destroyed in line with Ofsted's retention of inspection evidence procedures.

When visiting the local authorities we will be offering to meet with parents who elect to educate their children at home so we can hear face to face your views. We would also appreciate the opportunity to speak with your children, if you are happy for us to do so. Because of time pressure and the fact we do not know people's addresses we have asked the local authority if they will help facilitate the meetings. They have kindly agreed to send out this letter and the questionnaires on Ofsted's behalf. They will also arrange the venue and timings with Ofsted. At those meetings no local authority officer will be present during the meeting, just Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI). We hope you will be able to meet with us as it will inform our views on the range and type of service provided to home educators.

In speaking with your children it would be most helpful if they could either bring with them work they are particularly proud of, or be willing to speak about something they are proud of. We would, as when inspecting in schools, use this to break the ice when we meet, rather than fire questions at them. In meeting with yourselves and possibly your children we would try to keep things as relaxed and informal as possible. Our role is not to try to catch people out, but hear what they say. We cannot comment on the local authority or agree with or refute any comments about them. What we can do is record your views and see how they match up across all the parents' meetings we are holding.

I hope this helps explain the purpose of our work. My colleagues and I look forward to meeting with as many of you who can join us and also receiving the returned questionnaire.

Yours faithfully

[Name]

Her Majesty's Inspector