

Correspondence with Bridgend CC regarding misleading information on website
November 2024

Dear Councillor,

We noted with interest the post on Bridgend Council website regarding the approval of new council policy on elective home education.

We would be most grateful for a copy of this policy, as it does not seem to be available to home educators in the area or on the council website.

We are somewhat concerned initially from reading that post, alongside the report to the Cabinet of Bridgend County Council of 24th September, 2024 on EHE policy by Mark Lewis, as both of these refer to there having been "legislative changes" or "changes in legislation in relation to EHE.

[Elective Home Education Policy is approved by Cabinet - Bridgend CBC](#)

[BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL](#)

These statements are of course of concern as there has been no such new "legislation".

There has of course been a revision of EHE guidance by the Welsh Government in 2023, which has the rather misleading title of "statutory guidance". However, guidance is not legislation, and there has been no change in primary legislation in relation to EHE. Furthermore, there are no new statutory elements in that 2023 guidance, with most of the guidance being non-statutory - this has been confirmed in writing by the Education Department of the Welsh Government. Obviously, if there were any expectations to try to enforce non-statutory guidance without informed consent of those involved, that could run the risk of a council employee being expected to act in a way that could be unlawful, which we are sure we would all rather avoid.

Of course, we trust there will not be anything in the policy that could risk this happening, but it would be very reassuring for home educators to be able to clarify this by being able to read the policy directly.

Thus, we would be most grateful for sight of this policy, even if it is in draft form, so that feedback from home educators can help ensure a policy that is not only lawful, but respectful and workable.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards,

Home Ed Cymru