

TÚSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION

Home Education applications – Frequently Asked Questions

QMS Reference	AEARS-GDE01.2
Version	2.0
Date	09/12/2022

TÚSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

1. When can I start home educating my child?

Home education can commence once you have received confirmation of the completed submitted application form from Tusla - Child and Family Agency. Until then your child must attend a recognised school.

2. Why is the consent of both parents/legal guardians required?

The consent of all legal guardian/s is required for an application for home education. For further information regarding Guardianship please refer to the Application Form – Guidance Document.

3. Can my child be home educated for a few days a week and attend school for the remainder of the week?

No. A child's name can only be on one register – either the register of a Department of Education school, or the section 14 Register. Current education legislation does not support dual registration by a child or young person within education. The Education (Welfare) Act 2000 requires the child's name to be removed from one register, in order to be included on another.

4. When will my child be removed from the school register of a Department of Education (DE) School?

When a completed R1 application form has been received, the Tusla AEARS team will inform the principal of your child's previous Department of Education school and your child's school record will reflect that they are attending an Independent School or being home educated and are awaiting assessment. Their absences from school will be fully covered regarding the Education Welfare Services monitoring of school attendance and absenteeism. In line with Department of Education policy the school must strike the child's name from the roll book (DES Circular 0028/2013).

However, a Department of Education school cannot remove a child's name from their register until such a time as they are informed that the child has been placed on the Section 14 Register (for children receiving an education in a place other than a recognised school) or on the register of another Department of Education school.

If your child is successful in being registered following the assessment of the education provision, your child's previous school will be contacted and informed that they can now remove your child's name from the school register.

5. Does my child have the same entitlement to benefits as a child attending a recognised school?

Yes. All children and young people on the section 14. Register are entitled to the same status as a child receiving their education in a recognised school. Therefore, they are entitled to benefits in line

with children attending a Department of Education School, such as; child benefit, eye and hearing tests, vaccination programmes etc. For more information in relation to these entitlements, please contact the relevant government department e.g.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-employment-affairs-and-social-protection/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-health/>

6. Is home education the same as home tuition?

No. This application form does not relate to families who wish to avail of the Home Tuition Scheme provided through the Department of Education. The Home Tuition Scheme relates specifically to a compensatory educational service for children who, for a number of reasons such as chronic illness, are unable to attend school. The scheme also provides a compensatory educational service for children with special educational needs seeking an education placement. For further information please contact the Department of Education. (www.education.ie, 01- 889 6400).

7. What should I expect at the assessment?

As part of the registration process, Tusla - Child and Family Agency will arrange for an assessor to carry out an assessment of the education that is in place or proposed for your child. Further details are available in the [*Guidelines on the Assessment of Education in Places Other Than Recognised Schools*](#).

8. What exactly is a minimum education and how will I know if my child is receiving a minimum education?

While there is no legal definition of a “certain minimum education”, following historical legal actions, the guidelines regarding a certain minimum provision are set out in the [*Guidelines on the Assessment of Education in Places Other Than Recognised Schools*](#) prepared and issued by the Department of Education 2003.

9. Are there specific subject areas to be covered when I home educate?

The areas that will be covered in the assessment of the home education provision are intellectual development (literacy and numeracy, and other areas of learning), social, emotional and moral development, and the child’s physical development. The Assessor will, through consultation with the parent/s, gather information and evidence relating to these areas during the assessment. Further information relating to this can be found in the [*Guidelines on the Assessment of Education in Places Other Than Recognised Schools*](#) prepared and issued by the Department of Education 2003.

10. Will my child get an exemption from Irish?

No. Whilst there is no requirement for Irish to be included in the home education provision, home education does not entitle students to an exemption from the study of Irish in the event of a subsequent school enrolment. Parents should acquaint themselves with the examination and career implications of not taking Irish and/or having a second language.

It is suggested that parents should consult with the Department of Education (www.education.ie, 01-889 6400) and the State Examinations Commission (www.examinations.ie, 090-644 2700) with regard to the requirement for Irish and/or an additional language.

11. Can my child still qualify for special needs supports provided through the school?

No. Once the application for Home Education has been made all supports provided to or facilitated through the child's previous school ceases.

12. What is a certified copy of a birth certificate/passport and where can I get one?

The completed application form must be submitted with a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. Please do not send in the original copy of your child's birth certificate. The return of the birth certificate may take several weeks. If a birth certificate is not available, a certified copy of the child's passport will also be accepted.

A certified document is a photocopy of an original document that has been viewed, validated and marked as original sighted by one of the following:

- A practising Solicitor or Commissioner of Oaths
- A member of An Garda Síochána
- A Notary Public
- Peace Commissioner