

**ALTERNATIVE  
EDUCATION  
ASSESSMENT &  
REGISTRATION**

**Alternative Education Assessment & Registration  
Service  
Regulatory Notice**

<b>Title</b>	Maintenance of Register of Children receiving Education in a place other than a recognised school
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## **Maintenance of Register of Children receiving Education in a place other than a recognised school – Pursuant to Section 14(1) Education Welfare Act 2000**

### **1. The Register**

The Child & Family agency is responsible for maintaining a register of all children in receipt of education in a place other than a recognised school. A recognised school is one that is designated by the Minister for Education or deemed recognised as such under the provisions of Section 10 of the Education Act 1998.

The register is comprised two broad cohorts of children and young people;

- (i) Those who are educated in their own homes (including participation in online education)
- (ii) Those who attend independent schools or other settings that are not designated as a recognised school under the Education Act 1998.

Children are entered on to the Section 14 Register when the Child & Family Agency's Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service (AEARS) has, following receipt of a prescribed application and subsequent assessment of the child's education, deemed that it meets a minimum standard as set down by Guidelines on the Assessment of Education in Places other than a Recognised School (Dept of Education 2003) (See Section 16, Education Welfare Act 2000).

Applicants who wish their child/ren to attend an independent school must first make an application to the agency on the prescribed format. Children who are enrolled directly in the schools will not be added to the register in the absence of the required application.

### **2. Entry and Duration on the Register**

A child may not be added to or retained on the register and become a registered child unless they are:

- 1. Resident (living) in the Republic of Ireland.
- 2. Aged 6 years and have not reached the age of 16 years.

Children are not eligible to remain on the Section 14 Register even if they continue to be educated in a place other than a recognised school where they have:

- 1. Reached their 16th birthday.

Children and young people who meet these criteria will automatically cease to be included on the Section 14 Register thereafter without exception.

### **3. Child Benefit Payments for home educated young people 16 years and above whose registration has expired:**

If a parent wishes to continue to home educate their child after the age of 16 years they will be required to complete and submit a declaration for the purpose of seeking continued child benefit payment. The declaration will be issued by the Alternative Education and Registration Service for completion by parents to return to the Department of Social Protection - Child Benefit Section. This arrangement is an interdepartmental agreement and will operate until further notice.

#### **4. Date Effective**

These actions are administrative for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy of the register and does not acquiesce with removals of the children from the Section 14 register following enforcement actions taken pursuant to Section 14(12)(b) & Section 14(13) of the Act.

**Updated version effective from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**