

**The WhyPlayLearning Education Update**

**April 2026**

**A calm overview of what's  
happening in UK education**

For parents of children in school and home education

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# Welcome

Education is always evolving, and at times it can feel difficult for parents to keep up with what changes may affect their children.

Each month, this update brings together a simple, calm overview of developments in UK education, along with a short insight to support learning at home.

Whether your child learns in school or through home education, the aim remains the same: to help parents feel informed, reassured, and confident.

## A Simple Idea for This Month

Try asking your child:

“What would you like to learn more about this month?”

You might explore their answer together through:

- a trip to the library
- watching something together
- trying a small hands-on activity
- drawing or writing about their ideas
- Learning often begins with curiosity.

## Looking ahead

Over the coming weeks, I will be creating a dedicated page on the website to:

- explain these changes clearly and simply
- answer common questions
- share practical guidance and language for communicating with schools or local authorities
- provide a calm, supportive space for parents

# What's Been Happening in Education

## Home Education Growth

Home education continues to rise across the UK, with more families choosing this path for reasons such as wellbeing, flexibility, and meeting individual learning needs.

This reflects a growing understanding that learning can take place in different ways.

## Understanding Proposed Changes to Home Education

There have been recent discussions in Parliament about proposed changes to how children who are not in school are supported and monitored. One of the main proposals is the introduction of a register for children not attending school, which would include children who are home educated.

This would mean that parents may be asked to provide some basic information to their local authority.

There are also discussions around increased involvement from local authorities in certain situations, particularly where there are existing safeguarding concerns.

At this stage, it is important to understand that:

These proposals are not yet law, and nothing has changed for families at the moment.

As with many areas of education, changes take time to develop. Further details, including how any changes would work in practice, are still being finalised.

## What This May Mean for Families

For now, there is no action needed.

The most helpful approach is simply to stay informed and take things step by step as more information becomes available.

Children continue to learn best when they feel supported, understood, and able to learn in ways that suit them — and this remains unchanged.

**It's completely understandable to feel uncertain when changes are discussed.**

**You do not need to have everything figured out.**

**You do not need to recreate school at home.**

**What matters most is the relationship you build with your child and the environment you create for learning.**

# What's actually happening right now (latest update)

## 1. The bill is still going through Parliament

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill has not yet become law.

It has passed several stages (including detailed review in the House of Lords)

It is now in the final stages of approval between the House of Commons and Lords

It is expected to become law around 2026 (possibly soon, but not immediate)

Nothing has changed yet for families in day-to-day practice

## 2. The biggest confirmed proposal: a register

The government is moving forward with plans for:

A register of children not in school

Local authorities would be required to keep a register of all children not attending school

This includes children who are home educated

Parents would need to provide basic details and keep them updated

This is one of the central parts of the bill, and it has progressed through Parliament.

## 3. Permission in some situations

Another confirmed direction:

Some families may need permission to home educate

This applies mainly where there are:

child protection plans

ongoing investigations

or recent involvement (up to 5 years)

The local authority would decide if home education is in the child's "best interests"

## 4. Increased local authority involvement

The bill is designed to give local authorities more oversight:

They can monitor children not in school more closely

They may intervene if education is considered unsuitable

They could require school attendance in some cases

The government's stated aim is safeguarding and ensuring children don't "fall through gaps"

## 5. Important nuance (this often gets missed online)

There have already been changes and adjustments during the process:

Some more intrusive proposals have been reduced or softened during debates

Details (like exactly what information must be given) are still being finalised

Further guidance will come after the law is passed

This means:

Not everything you're seeing online is final

Some of the more extreme interpretations are assumptions, not confirmed rules

## 6. Why the government says this is happening

The official reasoning includes:

improving safeguarding

keeping track of children not in school

responding to cases where children were not visible to services

The focus is on oversight and welfare, not curriculum or forcing a specific way of learning.

## 7. What this means right now (this is the most important part)

**Nothing has changed yet**

**No immediate action is required**

**There will be time to understand and respond**

The government is currently progressing plans to introduce a register for children not in school, alongside some increased involvement from local authorities in specific situations.

These proposals are not yet law, and details are still being finalised.

For now, there are no changes families need to act on, and any future changes will take time to come into practice.

## A Small Learning Insight

### Focus on Children's Wellbeing

There is increasing attention on children's emotional wellbeing, both in schools and more widely.

Many educators recognise that learning is closely linked to how safe, supported, and understood children feel.

Children often learn more deeply through experience than through instruction alone.

Simple activities such as cooking, building, exploring outdoors, or talking through ideas can create strong and lasting understanding.

These everyday moments are often where the most meaningful learning happens.

Education is always evolving, but one thing remains:  
Children learn best when they feel supported,  
understood, and encouraged to explore the world around them.

**Keep a check on the Newsletter page on the website for all other information**