



**Families First
in Education Wales**

Website: familiesfirst.wales

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 1 March

To: [REDACTED]

Your ref: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 28 January, outlining the Government's proposals for moving forward in regard to elective home education.

We continue to seek reassurance that the proposals will fully respect the foundational basis of the rights of parents that is written into international law. This includes the statement in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that "parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children." (Article 26) Parents have always been given a primary role in deciding their child's education in this country.

In 1999, Katarina Tomasevski, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the right to education from 1998 to 2004, made the following observation in a Statement about the right to education - including the rights of parents playing a fundamental role in directing the type of education given:

"In a country where all school-aged children are in school, free of charge, for the full duration of compulsory education, **the right to education may be denied or violated**. The core human rights standards for education include respect of freedom. **The respect of parents' freedom to educate their children according to their vision of what education should be has been part of international human rights standards since their very emergence.** (emphasis added)

We would therefore very much value discussing our concerns about any attempts to reform the home education regime in Wales at this stage of the process with the relevant officials. We know how important consulting with those who would be most affected is and we would really value inputting our thoughts and experience into any plans for change.

Perhaps you could suggest suitable dates for some of our group to meet with Department staff. Please clarify whether the meetings would be in person or virtual.

Before that meeting, we hope to give other home educating families in Wales the opportunity to let us know any concerns they may have about the Government's intentions which they would like us to pass on. This will no doubt take us three weeks or so to collect and collate, but we would hope to have the information to hand by the time of the meeting.

Thank you again for your letter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Families First in Education Wales