

This document is not exhaustive; it is intended as a quick overview and was produced for our SEND events in March 2026 where we talked about the issues in more detail.

At a glance...

March 2026

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

What is it

A Bill is a proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law, presented for debate before Parliament.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is currently in the final stages of its passage through Parliament before it becomes an Act of Parliament, i.e. a new law.

Amongst other changes, the Bill introduces more powers for local authorities around home education.

What we know

- The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is a wide-ranging reform package.
- Some of the areas it covers include: school standards, attendance, teacher training, regulation of education settings, safeguarding, children's social care, breakfast clubs, limits on branded school uniforms, and more.
- It also creates a mandatory register for children who are home educated, as well as giving local authorities increased powers around who can home educate, and how they monitor families. This has caused worry and frustration for many home educating families.

What we don't know

- How local authorities will use any new powers to check on home education. For example, the frequency of checks, triggers for interventions, and what the route is if parents disagree with the local authority's decision.
- How consistent and fair decisions are made regarding who is prevented from home educating, and what is deemed as suitable education.
- How these changes fit with other changes happening alongside, such as the Schools White Paper and SEND reforms proposals.
- How changes will be properly tracked and monitored to know whether they are working well.

What do you think?

Share your views, concerns, and hopes here

