

# Freedom must extend to Education

## *UK Independence Party Statement on Home Education*

There is a growing attempt by the Government to marginalise and to attack those who choose entirely legally, to educate their children at home. UKIP strongly endorses the right of parents to offer Elective Home Education

The 1996 Education act states quite clearly:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable:

1. to his age, ability and aptitude, and
2. to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

The UK Independence Party in 2007 stated that it is fully behind the principle of Elective Home Education:

"We will nonetheless guarantee that those wishing to educate their children at home will still have this option available to them".

This was our position and remains so. UKIP utterly opposes attempts by the Government and state funded charities like the NSPCC to demonise Home Schooling. Home Education is a choice and one that should be supported.

Attempts to bring Elective Home Education under the authority of local government should be opposed wherever they are found.

The Every Child Matters Program of the Government is a scheme by which the Government, under spurious grounds, wishes to take control of those who elect to educate their children at home. It must not be allowed to do this.

To that end UKIP will work to:

- 1) Ensure that parents remain responsible for the upbringing and education of their children within or without formal schooling.
- 2) Fight against current and proposed policies and legislation which may affect the rights and freedoms of families who choose home education.
- 3) Support the right to fair and equal treatment for those who choose independent, elective home based learning for their children.