

Request for consent to withdraw from a public school

For a child **currently attending a public (council) school in Scotland**. Under section 35 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 you must obtain the education authority's consent **before** withdrawing — withdrawing without consent is a criminal offence. Consent must not be unreasonably withheld.

Scotland

Consent required first

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READ THIS FIRST

Do not remove your child until written consent is granted. Withdrawing a child who attends a Scottish public school without the council's consent is a criminal offence.

You do **not** need consent if any of these apply: the child has never attended a public school; never attended one in this council's area; you are leaving an independent/private school; the child has finished primary but not started secondary; the school has closed; or the child is not yet of school age.

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE

Send to your council's education department. The council should aim to decide within about **6 weeks**.

If consent is refused, the council must give written reasons and a chance to address them and resubmit.

You may ask for an internal review; the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman is also an option.

YOUR NAME

DATE

YOUR ADDRESS

HEAD TEACHER / RECIPIENT NAME

EMAIL / PHONE

SCHOOL / AUTHORITY NAME

Dear _____,

My child, _____ (date of birth _____), currently attends _____ (school), a school under your authority.

Under section 35 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, I am writing to request your consent to withdraw my child from school in order to provide their education by other means (home education) from _____ (proposed date). I understand my duty under section 30 of the Act to provide an efficient education suitable to my child's age, ability and aptitude.

I should be grateful for your decision in writing. I understand consent should not be unreasonably withheld, and I am happy to provide further information about my plans on