

Scotland: consent-to-withdraw checklist

Scotland is the one nation where you usually need the council's consent before taking a child out of a public school.

Scotland

Consent first

A4 · 1 page

CRIMINAL-OFFENCE WARNING

Withdrawing a child who attends a Scottish public school **without the council's consent is a criminal offence**. Wait for written consent before your child stops attending.

FIRST, CHECK THE EXCEPTIONS (NO CONSENT NEEDED IF...)

- My child has never attended a public school
- My child has never attended a public school in this council's area
- We're leaving an independent / private school
- My child finished primary but hasn't started secondary
- The school has closed
- My child isn't yet of school age

IF CONSENT IS NEEDED

- Send a written consent request to the council's education department
- Do NOT withdraw until written consent is granted
This is the most important step
- Expect a decision in around 6 weeks
- If refused, get the written reasons
Consent must not be unreasonably withheld
- Address the reasons and resubmit, or ask for a review

NOTES
