

Date:

Our Ref: EM/MB

Your Ref:

Direct Line: (01273) 293760

maggie.baker@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk
ellen.mulvihill@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

Dear (name of parent)

Re: Self Managed Learning College (SMLC)

Following the Children and Young People's Committee meeting on 14 October 2013, I am writing to clarify the current position in respect of the funding arrangements for (Name of pupil) attendance at the SMLC beyond this academic term.

As described in the consultation document sent to you in June, direct funding by the Local Authority is currently only agreed until 31 December 2013. When the Committee met to consider this on 14 October 2013 no decision in respect of the funding arrangements was made. This means that in the absence of a new policy the decision to fund only until the end of this academic term remains.

The LA are considering presenting a further paper on this matter to the next Children and Young People's Committee meeting on 18 November, but parents should not assume that funding will continue after 31 December 2013.

In the event that the current funding policy means that you are unable to fund your child continuing to attend the SMLC beyond this academic term, there are a number of choices available to you to ensure that your child still receives a suitable full time education. They can either remain in receipt of elective home education, or you can enrol them on a local maintained school. Both of these options include the opportunity for local authority support.

If you would like to discuss future educational provision arrangements for (name of pupil) please contact Gavin Thomas, EOTAS Co-ordinator on 01273 293431 or gavin.thomas@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk who will arrange to meet with you.

I am aware that some parents have indicated that they believe that their child may have special educational needs. If you have any concerns that your child has special educational needs then you should not hesitate to discuss this with Gavin Thomas, who can assist you to understand what might be available to assess, identify and support any special needs.

If you do wish to consider enrolling your child in a maintained school I would like to reassure you that should you express an interest in (name of pupil) attending a Brighton & Hove maintained school, Gavin on behalf of the Local Authority will discuss the process of applying for a school place and also any specific concerns you have about your child's capacity to transition into a new school. We will work with you to try and address any concerns you may have about your child in a school environment. Given the timescales between now and the end of the school term, it is important that you start that process as soon as possible and we will be happy to assist.

If you need any support or assistance to meet the specific educational or emotional needs of your particular child, then my team would welcome a constructive dialogue with you about how to ensure that occurs, irrespective of whether they are able to continue to attend the SMLC

I am aware that (name the pupil) may be entered for GCSE's. It would be very helpful if we could meet to discuss your child's particular needs in this regard, but if I do not hear back from you I will assume that you do not wish to discuss this with the local authority, and can make your own arrangements for any support they may need.

At the moment you have indicated to the local authority that your child is in receipt of elective home education. As such and unless and until alternative arrangements for your child's education are made it remains your responsibility in law to ensure they receive a suitable, efficient, full time education. If you cannot assume financial responsibility for their continued attendance at the SMLC after Christmas, and/or you do need or wish to make a change to the arrangements you have made for your child's education, my team looks forward to hearing from you if you wish to take up the offer of constructive dialogue about the options for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Mulvihill', written in a cursive style.

Ellen Mulvihill
Head of Behaviour and Attendance
Children's Services (Education & Inclusion)
Brighton & Hove City Council

