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Flexi Schooling

It seems that part time schooling may be more popular than many think. In a report in Hansard on November 1st last year Keith Vaz (Leicester East, Labour) asked a number of questions of the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which were answered by Jaqui Smith minister for schools.

Namely what provision her Department has made for parents who wish their children to go to school part-time and be home-schooled part-time; if she will make a statement on home schooling; how many children in (a) Leicester and (b) England were home-schooled in each of the last five years; what research her Department has evaluated on home schooling; and what the conclusions were of the research; how many local education authorities (a) allow children to enrol in schools on a part-time basis and (b) have children that have enrolled in schools on a part-time basis; what estimate she has made of (a) how many children are enrolled in schools on a part-time basis and (b) what proportion of those children are also home-schooled.

It seems that 328,344 children attending school were doing so part time. The reasons for so many may be that the number includes education in reception classes, reintegration to school following illness, and partial home-education.

She then went on to say that "My Department has not evaluated any research on home education." which means it's official – they know nothing about us.