

Response to the proposal for the amendments to the Bill to amend the Compulsory Education Act 1969

Date: July 15, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Our child was born in the Netherlands and has been raised in the Netherlands their whole life. We strongly believe they are an integrated member of Dutch society. They speak English as their primary language and Dutch as a secondary language. We have chosen to home educate our child as it aligns with our life-philosophical orientation.

We believe every child has the right to a good quality education and parents rightly have authority over the education for which they register their children.

We understand that the Dutch government wants to ensure that all children are properly cared for and also receive a quality education in a safe environment.

However, not every parent finds a suitable place within schools because of directional objections (religious or life-philosophical orientation) and finds that home education is the best option for their child to receive a quality education.

As a current home educating family we have one major concern of the proposed law change;

Exemption

How will international or expat families working in the Netherlands (for short or longer term durations) be able to home educate their children without the proposed B2 Dutch levels?

As individuals who will be the primary educators we hold master degrees and are highly qualified in our field. However as it will stand it will be impossible for us to continue home educating due to the language requirements as it states classes are taught and exams are taken in the Dutch language.

We feel that restricting families access to home educate based on only speaking Dutch will violate article 5 section b of the Compulsory Education Law. Can we therefore only object (richting) if we speak Dutch? Having our ability to home educate revoked because of language will have a profound impact on our family and we will have to potentially leave the only friends and community our child has ever known. We do not think this is fair.

As our native language is English we are most comfortable teaching our child in English. There are far more resources available in English and English is widely spoken internationally. We simultaneously however do acknowledge the importance of speaking Dutch and currently ensure our child is exposed daily to Dutch through friendships, books and other reading material, television (cartoons and current events), library workshops, museums, sports classes and as an active participating member of the wider community

We would like to ask that home educating is not just taught and tested in Dutch but includes the possibility to be taught in Dutch and English.

Regards,
Home Educating family

Objection to amend the Compulsory Education Act 1969
July 2020