

Weston Lullingfields CE Primary School



Flexi-schooling Policy

Approved by: Governing Body

Date: July 2024

Next review due by: July 2026

Rationale for Flexi-Schooling

Definition and Context

Flexi-schooling is an educational approach that combines part-time attendance at school with home-based education. It offers a middle ground between full-time school attendance and full-time home education, allowing for a more personalised and flexible approach to learning.

Legal Basis

While not explicitly defined in education law, flexi-schooling is permissible under the Education Act 1996, which allows for education to be provided other than at school. Schools have the discretion to agree to flexi-schooling arrangements, provided they are satisfied that the arrangement is in the best interests of the child.

Benefits of Flexi-Schooling

Personalised Learning: Flexi-schooling can allow for a more tailored educational experience, catering to individual learning styles, interests, and needs.

Gradual Transition: It can serve as a bridge for children who may struggle with full-time school attendance, such as those with anxiety, special educational needs, or those returning after a long absence.

Family Flexibility: Flexi-schooling can accommodate families with unique circumstances, such as those involved in performance arts, sports, or those who travel frequently.

Cultural and Religious Considerations: It can allow families to incorporate specific cultural or religious education that may not be fully addressed in the mainstream curriculum.

Reduced Pressure: For some children, the reduced time in the school environment can lead to decreased stress and improved mental health.

Maintaining Social Connections: Unlike full-time home education, flexi-schooling allows children to maintain regular social interactions with peers and participate in school activities.

At Weston Lullingfields CE Primary School, we believe flexi-schooling, when implemented thoughtfully and monitored carefully, can offer a valuable alternative educational approach. It has the potential to meet the diverse needs of learners and families while maintaining the benefits of formal schooling. However, it requires commitment and cooperation from all parties involved - the school, parents/carers, and the child - to ensure its success.

By offering flexi-schooling, we feel we are demonstrating our commitment to inclusive education and our willingness to adapt to the changing needs of our community. It reflects a progressive approach to education that recognises the value of both formal schooling and alternative educational methods.

Statement of intent

Weston Lullingfields CE Primary School recognises that flexi-schooling may be an appropriate option for some pupils, allowing them to combine attendance at school with home education.

While there is no automatic right for a pupil to receive flexi-schooling, the school aims to work with parents, in order to reach an arrangement that is mindful of the pupil's best interests, and allows the pupil to receive part of their education within the school, and the other part of their education at home.

When a pupil is flexi-schooled, there is always a risk that the child may not receive the broad and balanced education that they should and are entitled to receive. The school adheres to the measures outlined within this policy, and expects parents of flexi-schooled pupils to do so as well, in order to ensure that every pupil, whether flexi-schooled or not, receives a broad and balanced education.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)
- The Education Act 1996
- DfE (2019) 'Elective home education'
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2024'

While the law does not recognise flexi-schooling as a distinct legal category, it is a form of education that combines regular school attendance with home education.

The school retains responsibility for the child's education and overall welfare during school hours.

Parents/carers are responsible for their child's education and welfare when not in school.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

Ensuring the school has robust procedures in place for monitoring pupil attendance, attainment and progress.

Working with the headteacher to establish efficient flexi-schooling procedures, ensuring agreements are approved before flexi-schooling begins.

Approving this policy on an annual basis, ensuring that it remains adequate and appropriate for the needs of the school.

The headteacher is responsible for:

Working with the governing board to establish efficient flexi-schooling procedures, ensuring agreements have been approved before flexi-schooling begins.

Granting requests for flexi-schooling where they are satisfied the parents are committed to providing adequate support for their child while they are being educated off-site.

Signing the relevant contracts before flexi-schooling begins.

Ensuring the pupil's progress, attendance, behaviour and the effectiveness of any intervention programmes are monitored.

Ensuring parents receive regular updates on their child's attendance and progress.

Providing parents with copies of timetables to ensure they can plan flexi-day activities for pupils.

Withdrawing a flexi-schooling agreement if it is felt that any of the required conditions are not being met at home.

Reviewing this policy on an annual basis, ensuring it remains adequate and appropriate for the needs of the school.

Parents are responsible for:

Keeping clear records or diaries of the activities and learning experiences that happen on flexi-schooling days.

Ensuring attendance on non-flexi days remains above 95%.

Definitions

Flexi-schooling is providing a full-time education by means of a mixture of provision.

This means that parents may make a request for their child to receive part of their education and the school and part of their education at home or in other settings. Pupils receiving part of their education at the school through a flexi-schooling arrangement must still receive full-time education overall, and it is parents' responsibility to ensure that this duty is met.

While parents are free to request flexi-schooling arrangements, there is no legal entitlement for requests for flexi-schooling to be accepted.

Requesting flexi-schooling arrangements

Flexi-schooling arrangements will only be considered upon the official request of someone who has parental responsibility for a child – flexi-schooling arrangements will never be initiated by the school.

If a parent wishes for their child to receive flexi-schooling with part of their education delivered at the school, this request will be required to be made in writing to the headteacher. The headteacher will then arrange an in-person meeting with the parent of the child to discuss the proposed flexi-schooling arrangement further.

The decision to allow a flexi-schooling arrangement to take place is solely at the discretion of the headteacher, and there is no right of appeal against the headteacher's decision.

Parents/carers wishing to pursue a flexi-schooling arrangement must submit a written request to the headteacher.

The request should outline:

- Reasons for the request
- Proposed timetable of attendance
- Plans for education during non-attendance days

If the school agrees to a flexi-schooling arrangement, an agreement will be prepared. This agreement will contain information on the following:

Which areas of education each party will provide

The responsible person for overseeing the non-school part of the education

What flexibility there will be regarding special events at school which fall outside the pupil's usual attendance, e.g. school trips, assemblies

What flexibility there will be regarding special events at home which fall inside the pupil's usual attendance, e.g. museum trips

What arrangements will be made for pupil assessment

Any SEND and associated provision

To what extent the national curriculum will be followed

Anything else the parent and school agree to include

Which school sessions or lessons the pupil will attend.

Both parties will also sign an agreement stating that they understand that the school is responsible for the pupil's welfare while they are at school, and the parents are responsible at all other times.

Flexi-schooling will not begin until these documents have been signed by the parents and the school.

Attendance and educational performance

The school will monitor progress, attendance, behaviour and the effectiveness of any intervention programmes, in line with the existing procedures for full-time equivalent pupils.

Attendance at school will be mandatory for pupils receiving flexi-schooling for all sessions where it has been agreed the pupil will be present. Where pupils are receiving the off-site parts of their education, they will be officially entered onto the school's admissions and attendance registers. The school will mark the register as authorised absence (Code C) for agreed flexi-schooling days.

The school will update parents on their child's attendance and progress at school at least termly through:

Progress reports.

Formal parent and school meetings.

Informal communications.

The school will expect the parents to act on advice provided and work in partnership with the school to ensure that pupils make appropriate academic progress.

The school retains the right to withdraw an agreement at any time, e.g. if the school feels that any of the required conditions that underpin the agreement are not being met at home.

The school's role in flexi-schooling

For all flexi-schooling arrangements entered into by the school, the school will:

Monitor the attendance levels of pupils at school.

Track and evaluate the attainment and progress of pupils at school.

The school is not responsible for the parts of education that are delivered to the pupil when they are off-site, as the quality and suitability of home education is the responsibility of the LA; however, the school will work with the LA wherever necessary to ensure the pupil's overall education is suitable and that the proper attendance codes are used.

The school will not conduct any health and safety risk assessments of the pupil's home; however, if there is evidence that a child is not safe at home, or a concern is raised either by a member of staff or the child themselves, the DSL will be informed immediately, and the school will follow the processes outlined in the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Termination of a flexi-schooling agreement

The school will set a formal review for flexi-schooling arrangements where:

- Pupils' attendance at school falls below 95 percent.
- Pupils' attainment, performance or progress is falling below the accepted standard in areas of the pupil's education for which the school has responsibility.

Where the school believes that any of the required conditions that underpin the agreement are not being met, e.g. the pupil is not making the expected progress, the school will withdraw the flexi-schooling agreement.

Two weeks' notice will be given to parents following a decision to terminate the agreement.

If parents do not agree with the school's decision, they will be asked to attend a meeting with the headteacher to discuss the reasons behind the decision.

If they still disagree following the meeting, parents will be offered the opportunity to make a complaint regarding the school's decision. All complaints will be handled in accordance with the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the governing board and the headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is date.

APENDIX 1

Weston Lullingfields CE Primary School Flexi-Schooling Agreement



This agreement is made between:

Weston Lullingfields CE Primary School and the Parents/Carers on behalf of;

Pupil Name: _____

Duration of Agreement

This agreement will commence on 04/09/24 and will be reviewed in July 2025.

Attendance Schedule

The Pupil will attend school on the following days;

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

The Pupil will be educated at home on the following days:

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Curriculum Coverage

During school attendance, the Pupil will follow the school's curriculum as appropriate for their year group/ability.

For home education days, the Parents/Carers agree to cover the following areas of the curriculum:

Reading and Phonics	
Writing	
Maths	
Science	
History	
Geography	
Art	
DT	
Computing	
Music	
Spanish	
RE	
PE	
Forest School	
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education	
Support with Mental Health and Wellbeing	

Assessment and Monitoring

The Pupil will participate in all relevant assessments and examinations as required by the School.

The School will provide feedback on the Pupil's progress termly.

Communication

The Parents/Carers agree to attend meetings with the School to discuss the Pupil's progress in the Autumn and Spring term.

The School will provide a named contact for flexi-schooling matters: Steph Burgoyne, Headteacher.

Safeguarding

The Parents/Carers confirm they have read and understood the School's safeguarding policy.

The Parents/Carers agree to notify the School immediately of any safeguarding concerns.

Attendance and Punctuality

The Parents/Carers agree to ensure the Pupil attends school punctually on agreed days.

The Parents/Carers will notify the School of any absences following the usual procedures.

Review and Termination

This agreement will be reviewed annually.

Either party may terminate this agreement with 2 weeks' notice in writing. Should you wish to alter your days, we require at least half a term's notice.

The School reserves the right to terminate this agreement immediately if there are concerns about the Pupil's welfare, progress, or the impact on the School.

By signing below, all parties agree to adhere to the terms of this Flexi-Schooling Agreement:

Signed (Headteacher): _____ Date: _____

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____ Date: _____