Flexi-Schooling Policy



Approved by: FGB	**Date:**
Last reviewed on: April 2026	
Next review due by: May 2028	

Document & Version Control

Statutory for Website	No	Review Cycle	2 Years

Revision Date	Version No.	Summary of Change	Changes made by	Approved by	Date approved
April 2026	1	New document		FGB	

Contents

Introduction 2
Background 2
Implications for the school in relation to Flexi Schooled pupils 3
Reception class children attending school part-time 4
Implications for parents/carers of Flexi- Schooled pupils 4
The Headteacher's considerations when making a response to a request for Flexi-schooling 5
Flexi-schooling-- parent/carer and school agreement 6
APPENDIX 1 7
Flexi-schooling Home/School Contract 7
Contract for Provision of Education – Part 1 Gastrells Community Primary School Primary School 7
Contract for Provision of Education – Part 2 Home 7
APPENDIX 2 8
Flexi-schooling Home/School Contract 8

Introduction

This document clarifies what is meant by the term Flexi-Schooling and aims to support conversations between parents and the school about this approach to education. All requests for Flexi-Schooling should be addressed to the Headteacher, including those for non-statutory aged children (under 5s) and will be given due consideration. The main priority for the school is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to access full-time, high-quality education which will enable them to achieve their full potential both academically and socially.

Background

Flexi-Schooling is a hybrid model of education whereby a child is educated partly at school and the remainder elsewhere, generally at home. Flexi-Schooling should not, however, be confused with elective home education, known as Home Schooling. Parents/carers have a legal right to choose to home educate their child, *but parents/carers do **not** have a legal right to insist on a Flexi-Schooling arrangement being agreed by the school.*

Flexi-Schooling is also different from temporary part-time attendance arrangements which the school/parent/carer may seek to make. Such arrangements are monitored and reviewed with the intention that the child be returned to full time attendance as soon as possible.

Flexi-Schooling is full time education, although the provision may be split. Any decisions agreed between the school and a parent/carer should always be made in the best interest of the child. Whilst a parent/carer may request that their child is flexi-schooled, it is entirely at the Headteacher's discretion, acting with the support of the governing body, as to whether or not the school is prepared to agree to a request for a Flexi-Schooling arrangement. The Headteacher and governors at Gastrells Community Primary School School, believe that it is in the best interests of all pupils registered at the school to attend on a full-time basis, in order to benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the National Curriculum and to enjoy the enrichment offered through a wide range of extra- curricular activities. However, each request will be judged on its own merits.

Implications for the school in relation to Flexi Schooled pupils

The Flexi schooled child will be registered as a full-time student but will not attend the school for the full-time hours. The time spent by children being educated at home will be recorded as an 'authorised absence' in the usual way and marked in attendance registers accordingly, using Code C

Children who attend part-time under a Flexi-Schooling arrangement are subject to the same school admission processes as other children and are counted in the same way as a child who attends full-time for the purposes of the infant class size regulations. Schools which have flexi-schooled pupils should be ready to discuss with Ofsted inspectors the arrangements they have in place to deal with the requirements caused by such pupils.
Schools are held to account through inspection for the performance of pupils, and that will include any who attend the school as part of a programme of Flexi-Schooling.

Where a child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), the decision for Flexi-Schooling does not rest solely with the Headteacher but must be taken in conjunction with the Local Authority.

When a child is flexi-schooled, the parent/carer has a duty to ensure that the child receives a suitable full-time education, but the time spent attending school must be taken into account when considering whether that duty is fully met.

The school will notify the Administrator for Elective Home Education at the LA of the Flexi-Schooling arrangement.

Although there is no obligation to do so, the school may well decide that it will need to provide materials so that learning can keep pace with that of other children.

Arrangements for flexi-schooling may make both the identification of SEND and the ability to meet those needs more difficult to secure. Effective assessment would need to take place across both the school and home-schooling elements of the flexi school arrangement.

The school receives full funding for flexi–schooled pupils and they must be included on all census

returns. The responsibility for the flexi-school arrangement lies with the school and not the LA. The school will need to work with parents/carers to address any issues which arise.

The governing body may be involved in agreeing and reviewing a general approach to requests for flexi- schooling, but this does not exempt the Headteacher from the need to consider each request individually.

Reception class children attending school part-time

Reception class children are allowed to attend school part-time during the whole of their first year. This means that your child can start attending gradually. They do not have to attend school full time till the beginning of the term after their 5th birthday

If you would like to take up this option. please speak to the school about your child attending part-time. Make sure to discuss both the possible benefits and disadvantages, and what might be the best schedule for your child.

Implications for parents/carers of Flexi- Schooled pupils

The responsibility to ensure that a child receives full time education while they are of statutory school age (over 5 year of age) lies with the parent/carer with parental responsibility. The decision to undertake Flexi-Schooling should only be considered if there are positive reasons for doing so and where all parties are in agreement that such an arrangement is in the best interests of the child. A parent/carer must be confident that they can fully meet the educational needs of the child and the school mindful of the fact that, if arrangements are agreed, the school will retain the responsibility for the child's progress

1. The implications of making partial educational provision at home are significant, both in terms of expertise and resources and in the commitment to make a shared provision work.

2. The education provided at home and at school. should together constitute high quality full-time education.

3. On days when the child does not attend school, the child need not follow the National Curriculum. However, the school will require parents/carers to provide the school with an overview of expected learning provision.

4. Parents/carers are expected to keep records of learning coverage and their child's progress in the off-site element of the agreement. Learning progress should be assessed, recorded and shared with the school on a regular basis. It is likely that Ofsted may want to see the evidence that the parent/carers keep. The format for recording is not set by the school but could take the form of journal keeping, including children's writing, parental/carers observations, reports and annotated photographs.

5. Flexi-Schooling does not give an alternative means of opting out of an element of the curriculum with which a child, for whatever reason, is uncomfortable, and is unlikely to be successful if the reasons for choosing it are negative and the choice is motivated by the

desire to avoid difficulties around certain subjects, teachers, peers, aspects of school discipline or attendance itself.

6. Concerns are sometimes raised about friendships being affected when children are flexi-schooled so parents and schools would wish to work together to consider these concerns and how these might be overcome.

7. Arrangements for Flexi-Schooling can only be made at the request of a parent/carer with parental responsibility. It cannot be instigated by the school.

8. Neither the LA nor the school have a statutory duty to monitor the quality of home education on a routine basis. However, if it appears to the school that parents/carers are not providing a suitable education as agreed between the school and the parent/carer, the school may ask the parent/carer to take remedial action. If the parent/carer declines to do so or the school is still concerned about the provision of education at home, the school may withdraw its agreement to the Flexi-Schooling arrangement. The child would then be required to return to school on a full

9. The school expects parents/carers of flexi schooled children to uphold the school's ethos, values, policies and practice.

10. The parents/carers must contact the school if the child is absent from a session that they would normally be present at school or at approved educational activity.

The Headteacher's considerations when making a response to a request for Flexi-Schooling

Flexi-Schooling is an arrangement that can work well for children with illnesses, or with school phobia, where parents wish to have more input into the child's education, or where the family would prefer the child not to attend full-time until they are older.

All requests for Flexi-Schooling will be considered by the Headteacher on their own merits. The Headteacher will take into account how a Flexi-Schooling arrangement will best meet the interests of the child; their educational progress and achievement; together with the likely impact on the discipline, morale and attendance and organisation of the school. Those considerations may include:

- current and anticipated level of educational attainment, achievement and progress of the individual pupil and the arrangements for monitoring the learning and progress of the individual
- the Flexi-Schooling education provided at home and that provided at school, together must constitute full time education provision,
- the effect on school discipline and the morale and motivation of other children on roll at the school
- the effect on the school organisation, school resources and funding,
- the impact on overall school attainment and progress figure
- The safeguarding of any child should always be of paramount importance, so any decisions

should be taken with any known and existing safeguarding concerns in mind. Where a child attends another setting on those days when not in school it is incumbent on the parent to ensure the adequacy of the safeguarding arrangements in operation at this setting. The Headteacher should, however, still take action in response to any concerns that arise.

Flexi-Schooling-- parent/carer and school agreement

In all cases where Flexi-Schooling is agreed, Gastrells Community Primary School will require the parent/carer to sign a written agreement so that expectations and arrangements are clear for both parties as set out in the school policy.

APPENDIX 1

Flexi-Schooling Home/School Contract

Contract for Provision of Education – Part 1 Gastrells Community Primary School Primary School

Child's Name: …… **D.O.B. ……**

Name of Parent(s)/Carer(s): ……

Gastrells Community Primary School is responsible for the education of the above-named child on the days and times
set out in the attached Attendance Agreement and timetable.

The educational provision will be suitable to .....'s age, aptitude and ability as set out in *Section 7 of the Education Act 1996*.

Whilst.....is on school premises or the School is acting in loco parentis the school will maintain primary responsibility for.....'s safety and welfare.

The school and parent/carer will meet every term for a review meeting to discuss

… .....**'s progress and review the attendance agreement.**

The school can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing (one month.)

Headteacher: …… **Date: ……**

Contract for Provision of Education – Part 2 Home

Child's Name: …….. D.O.B ……

Name of parent(s)/carer(s): ……

I/we are responsible for the education of the above-named child on the days and times set out in the attached Attendance Agreement and timetable.

The educational provision will be suitable to .....'s age, aptitude and ability as set out in *Section 7 of the Education Act 1996*.

During school hours timetabled for home-based education I/we will maintain primary responsibility for

.....'s safety and welfare.

I/we understand that I/we can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing (one month).

I /we have read Gastrells Community Primary School policy on Flexi-Schooling and understand what is expected of me if the school agrees to a Flexi- school arrangement for the education of my child.

Parent/carer: …… **Date: ……**

APPENDIX 2

Flexi-Schooling Home/School Contract

Attendance Agreement: Gastrells Community Primary School

Child's Name: …… D.O.B: …… Name

of Parent(s)/Carer(s): …….

	am	pm
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		

Agreed by the Headteacher: ……. Date: ……

Agreed by Parent/Carer: ……. Date: …….