

FLEXI-SCHOOLING POLICY

Adopted by the Governor Trustees | 01/09/21
Review Date | 01/09/2023

We are committed to safeguarding and ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all pupils in accordance with safeguarding procedures and guidance for staff outlined in the school's Health and Safety, Child Protection, Security and Safeguarding policies.

Flexi-schooling is the term used when children are educated partly at school and partly at home by their parents. Such an arrangement will need to have a formal written agreement, signed by both parties.

'*Elective Home Education: Guidelines for Local Authorities*' (DCSF 2007); paragraph 5.6 is specific to flexi-schooling:

"Flexi-schooling" or "flexible school attendance" is an arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school and attends the school only part time; the rest of the time the child is home educated (on authorised absence from school). This can be a long-term arrangement or a short-term measure for a particular reason. Flexi-schooling is a legal option provided that the School Director [Head teacher] at the school concerned agrees to the arrangement. The child will be required to follow the Waldorf Curriculum whilst at school but not whilst he or she is being educated at home.'

Flexi Schooling is an extension to the Elective Home Education that a parent/carer is providing their child, accordingly the responsibility to ensure adequate educational provision rests with the parent/carer and is not the direct responsibility of the school. Specifically, that the learning attainment, pupils progress within the Waldorf Curriculum and examinations outcomes remain the responsibility of the parent/carer as part of their Elective Home Education provision for their child, which the school supports in its delivery.

This policy applies to:

- All parents and carers seeking admission to school or to reach an attendance agreement for a child in their care.

In deciding whether to agree to a flexi-schooling arrangement, the School Director (SD) in partnership with the School Leadership Team (SLT) will consider:

- Safeguarding the child
- The appropriateness of the education proposed by the parent/carer away from school
- The effect on the school organisation
- The effect on school resources
- The effect on school discipline and the morale and motivation of other children on roll at the school

Procedure

When a child is flexi-schooled they will be registered at the school. On days when they attend school the Waldorf Curriculum will be followed.

The requirement to follow the Waldorf Curriculum will apply to all children except:

- Temporarily, due to exceptional circumstances such as prolonged absence from school on health grounds or family crisis.
- As a part of a Statement of Special Educational Needs.
- On days when they are not at school, the child need not follow the National Curriculum.

Marking the Attendance Register

[The GOV.UK web page](#) containing the Home Education Guidelines says *"Pupils who are being flexi-schooled should be marked as absent from school during the periods when they are receiving home education."* The register will therefore be marked as authorised absence (code C) where the child is being educated at home

These sessions will be included in the number of possible sessions and the absence and attendance figures in school attendance reporting, pupil attendance reports and Educational Reports. The school will keep a record of any children being flexischooled so that accurate attendance figures for children within the school can be obtained for the purposes of monitoring whole school attendance.

Finances

Where a child is recorded as flexi-schooled, the school will receive EYFE Funding (if applicable) for those sessions and provide an adapted Tuition Plan will be provided to reflect the Sessions/Days in attendance

Admissions

There is no distinction between children who are to be flexi-schooled and those who are not.

Insurance

There is no distinction between children who are to be flexi-schooled and those who are not.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need & EHCP

There is no distinction between children who are to be flexi-schooled and those who are not.

Monitoring of home education provision

The home education provision will be monitored by [Brighton & Hove \(LA\) Access to Education Team](#) in the same way all other provision is monitored; there will be no special provision for flexi-schooled pupils.

When the Home Education is unsuitable

Neither the LA nor the school have a duty to monitor the quality of home education on a routine basis. However, if it appears to the school that a pupil(s) on a flexi-schooling arrangement is not receiving a suitable education as agreed between the school and the parent or carer, the school will ask that the parents take action. If a parent declines to do so or the school is still concerned about the provision of education at home, the school will withdraw its agreement to the flexi-schooling arrangement. The child would then be required to attend school on a full time basis.

The Trustee Governors of a School

The School Director in partnership with the School Leadership Team will consider each request for flexi-schooling on its own merits. The Trustee Governors will be involved in agreeing and reviewing the policy and general approach.

Written Agreement with Parents

A written and signed agreement will be formulated between the school and parent/carer in order to make expectations clear for all concerned. This will include:

- completion of the flexi schooling application form
- The normal expected pattern of attendance at school. This will usually consist of 3-4 consecutive days at school during a week, and will be the same each week, subject to any special events at school.

- The length of time the agreement is to run before review. Typically one term
- What flexibility there will be regarding special events that fall outside the normal arrangement such as but not limited to: festivals and assemblies; trips; performances; sports events; visitors to school
- How the register will be marked
- That parents contact the school if the child is absent from a session that they would normally be present at school or an approved educational activity
- That the school will follow up any unexplained or unexpected absences as it would for other pupils.
- Arrangements at times of assessment and examinations
- That if a parent chooses to employ at their expense another person to educate the child at home, they will be responsible for ensuring that person is suitable to have access to children
- Any perceived special educational needs and associated provision will be reviewed in partnership with the flexi schooling agreement
- Regular planning meetings between parent/carer and school to ensure the child achieves their potential and to promote good home- school relationships
- That the school will notify the [Brighton & Hove \(LA\) Access to Education Team](#) of the flexi-schooling arrangement
- Under what circumstances and with what notice either party can withdraw from the arrangement
- How any disputes will be resolved

Appeals

If the decision of a School Director is to not agree to a flexi-schooling request then parents may make a complaint to the school's Trustee Governors via the [School Complaints Policy & Procedure](#)

Summary

All requests must be considered by the School Director in partnership with the School Leadership Team on their own merits

The School Director in partnership with the School Leadership Team will take into account the best interests of the child, together with the likely impact on the discipline, morale and organisation of the school. Of overriding importance is safeguarding the child. No agreement will be reached where the School Director in partnership with the School Leadership Team has concerns that it would put the child at risk of harm whilst not attending the school.