

Cooperation Courage Compassion



Flexi-Schooling Policy

We strive to cooperate and work alongside all members of our community to feel valued, nurtured, and empowered as they embark upon their journey to become the very best that God intended. Throughout their voyage of discovery with us, we ensure all children are provided with a rich curriculum, and experiences that promote courage and a strong moral purpose underpinned by our Christian values; preparing them to become compassionate citizens within our rural community and the wider world.

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Revision History

Date	By	Description	Review date
May 2023	G.Hawkins	Update	May 2024

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Statement of intent

Wittersham Church of England Primary School understands that, under some circumstances, parents may wish for their child to receive some of their education in school, and some of their education at home.

While there is no automatic right for a pupil to receive flexi-schooling, the school aims to work with parents where this may be necessary, 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, to ensure that every pupil, whether flexi-schooled or not, receives a broad and balanced education.

1. 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 (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education 2022'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- SEND Policy
- Home and School Agreement
- Attendance and Absence Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

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2. 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.
- Putting arrangements in place for when the provider of the alternative activity as part of flexi-schooling notifies the school of any absences of individual pupils.

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 termly updates on their child's attendance and progress, e.g. through progress reports.
- Collating evidence from parents to inform pupil assessments.
- Providing parents with copies of weekly planning 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.
- Providing copies of records or diaries, pupil's work, evidence, and activities to the headteacher and bringing these to termly parents' evenings.
- Attending termly group meetings with other parents and school staff regarding flexi-schooling to share good practice.

3. Definitions

Flexi-schooling is providing a full-time education through a mixture of provisions.

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 the 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.

4. 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.

Flexi-schooling arrangements will only be given if the headteacher is satisfied of the following:

- The parent is committed to providing suitable education for their child overall and is aware of their legal duty to ensure their child is educated full-time
- The education that the parent proposes to provide off-site will be of good quality, and the child will receive a broad and balanced education overall
- The arrangement will not have a significant adverse impact on the child's development, e.g. in terms of social interaction
- The arrangement will be able to work practically in terms of work set for the child
- There are no safeguarding concerns related to the welfare of the child surrounding the arrangement

If the school agrees to a flexi-schooling arrangement, an agreement will be prepared. This

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

5. 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.

School attendance 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 into the school's admissions and attendance registers. Periods, where the pupil is receiving education other than at the school, will be marked on attendance registers as authorised absences in line with the Attendance and Absence Policy.

The pupil's parent will be responsible for informing the school where their child will be absent from on-site provision and where they will not be attending schooling off-site – the school will mark the attendance register in line with the Attendance and Absence Policy for absences from either provision.

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.

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The school will expect the parents to act on the 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.

6. 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..
- Use any evidence parents collate at home to inform their assessments of pupils – attainment and progress evidence will be shared between parents and the school.
- Provide parents with copies of weekly planning to ensure parents can plan flexi-day activities to support their child's learning.

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, the DSL will be informed immediately, and the school will follow the processes outlined in the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

7. Termination of a flexi-schooling agreement

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

- Pupils' attendance at school falls below 75 percent, without legitimate cause.
- Pupils' attainment, performance, or progress falls 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.

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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 by the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

8. 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 May 2024.

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