

Wye Forest Federation

Redbrook Church of England Primary School

St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School



Name of Policy: Redbrook Flexi-Schooling Policy

This policy was agreed by the Full Governing Body on: (and supersedes all previous policies relating to this area)	19 th Jan 2023
Signed by: (Executive Headteacher)	
Signed by: (WFF Chair of Governors)	
Implemented:	19 th Jan 2023
Review date:	Jan 2025

Redbrook Flexi-Schooling Policy

Our Vision

Striving Together To Be The Best we Can Be

Our Federation is a safe place where we embrace and enjoy challenge; take ownership of our own learning; collaborate and support each other; whilst striving together to be the best we can be in order to flourish in all areas of life now and in the future.

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Policy statement

At Redbrook C of E Primary school we are committed to developing positive relationships with our families and communities. We value our parent’s commitment to their child’s education and appreciate that some parents may request the opportunity to partially educate their child at home. We recognise that valuable learning can also occur outside of the school environment.

Benefits from a flexi-school arrangement might include:

- helping children to adjust to the school environment when starting school;
- supporting children who have previously home schooled back into a school environment;
- recognising the individual needs of children;
- checking understanding gained at school;
- deepening understanding of how children learn;
- forming a cooperative relationship with the school for the education of a child.

When entering into a flexi-school arrangement we ensure that the child is at the centre of our decision making. The initial request must emanate from the parent/carer. The school will not suggest or encourage a family to undertake flexi-schooling. In order for our school to enter into and continue a flexi-schooling arrangement, parents and carers must accept and maintain the rigorous framework of expectations set out within this policy.

Background

The responsibility for a child receiving full-time education while he or she is of statutory school age lies with the parent or guardian/carer. Where a parent/carer educates a child partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called flexi-schooling.

Flexi-schooling must not be confused with elective home education. 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.

Whilst a parent/carer may request that their child is flexi-schooled it is entirely at the discretion of the Head teacher, acting with the authority of the governing body, as to whether or not the school is prepared to agree to a flexi-schooling arrangement.

If a parent/carer is interested in making a request for a flexi-schooling arrangement, contact must be made directly with the Head teacher so that the proposal may be considered. Requests can be made by parents/carers of current and prospective pupils. Each proposal will be considered on its own merits and within its individual context.

What should parents/carers consider?

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 well for the child.

The education provided at home and at school must together constitute a full-time provision. While there is no statutory curriculum for the home education part of a flexi-schooling arrangement, parents/carers must be mindful of the impact on the child's access to the National Curriculum and the possible fragmentation of the child's learning experience. For this reason, all children are required to attend school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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. The school would expect to engage actively in attempting to resolve these difficulties. The school has an inclusive approach to education and strives hard to work with the wishes and choices of all parents.

Redbrook C of E Primary school expects parents of flexi-schooled children to uphold the school's ethos, values, policies and practice. Strong and reciprocal partnership between home and school is key to a successful and sustainable Flexi-schooling arrangement.

Flexi-schooling at Redbrook C of E Primary School

At our school collaboration between home and school is essential to ensure that flexi-schooling works well. We are passionate about ensuring that all children who attend our school have access to all areas of the curriculum. As a result, we have developed a core offer which means that all children are required to attend school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Children are able to be educated

at home on Mondays and/ or Fridays. Within the core offer all children will be taught English (including reading) and Maths daily. They will additionally have weekly lessons in RE, PSHE, Science, Humanities and computing. Furthermore, they will have Music, PE, Art and D and T on rotation throughout the year.

- Once a parent has agreed to flexi-schooling they are committed maintaining good attendance on the agreed days.
- Flexi-schooling is limited to two days per week and each agreement between the Head Teacher and parent is made subject to an agreed review period.
- Our agreed flexi-schooling days are fixed with the parent, which allows us to manage our whole school timetable so children don't miss out on trips, visitors or any specific new learning.
- Parents/carers are required to attend flexi-schooling review meetings as requested.

Considerations following flexi-school requests

Considerations that the head teacher will make when deciding whether to agree to a flexi-schooling arrangement:

- All applications will be judged on their own merit.
- The grounds for agreeing a flexi-schooling place will always be at the discretion of the head teacher.
- Safeguarding and welfare of the child is of paramount importance. Ultimately our school is responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils educated off-site and an appropriate risk assessment must be undertaken in advance of any agreement made.
- No agreement will be reached or maintained where the Head teacher has concerns that would put the child at risk of harm while not attending at school. Therefore, when agreeing to Flexi-schooling arrangement our school is certifying that the education is supervised and all reasonable and appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard pupils.
- On application for an initial admission the head teacher reserves the right to decline a request for a flexi-schooling place.
- 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 pupil will be carefully considered.
- The appropriateness of the environment proposed and maintained by the parents/carers away from the school will be evaluated and risk assessed.
- Flexi-schooling education provided at home and that provided at school must together constitute a 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.
- The effect on school resources.
- The impact on overall school attainment and progress figures.

The Role of the Governing Body of a School

The governing body may be involved in agreeing and reviewing the school's approach to Flexi-schooling requests but they will not become involved in individual cases. Governors may have a more formal role if a dispute arises and/or a complaint regarding Flexi-schooling provision is made. Governors must satisfy themselves that the Head teacher has fully considered the conditions for agreeing a Flexi-schooling agreement and that they are fully conversant with the school attendance statutory guidance when reaching a decision. Governors will also monitor progress of flexi-schooled children to ensure that good progress is being made. This will be reviewed regularly through the curriculum committee.

Appeals

There is no appeal against the decision of the Head teacher not to agree to a Flexi-schooling request or if the head teacher decides to cease an individual child's Flexi-schooling arrangement. If parents are dissatisfied with any aspect of the process and cannot resolve this with the head teacher, they can approach the Chair of Governors for further discussion.

Funding/Registration

There is no distinction between children who are flexi-schooled and those who are not. The child will be recorded by the school as attending full-time. Therefore, the school will receive full-time funding. Children will be recorded as absent when not in school using the C code (authorised absence). Flexi-schooled children are included in census count returns as for other children.

Policy updates

The flexi-school policy will be reviewed every two years.

Our agreements with Parents

A written and signed agreement is formulated between the school and parent/carer, in order to make expectations clear for all concerned. The agreement is formalised in line with the schools flexi-schooling policy and will include:

- The number of days that they will be requesting to be educated at home (maximum of two, Mondays and Fridays only).
- The length of time the agreement is to run before being reviewed. Typically, this will be one half term initially and then at the end of each term as they continue (three times a year).

Appendix 1

Flexi-schooling Additional Information Form

(to be filled in alongside School Enrolment form either by parents or during meeting) Additional Information Form

Child's name

Name of parent(s), carer(s)

Admissions form completed

Yes / No

What attracted you to flexi-schooling?

(continue overleaf if necessary)

What are your expectations of the school-based part of the Education?

(continue overleaf if necessary)

What are your expectations of the home-based part of the Education?

(continue overleaf if necessary)

Do you intend to follow the National Curriculum at Home?

If so, do you require any help with this? (e.g assistance with attainment targets etc)

Form of Education to date

F/T School P/T School Home Education N/A

Levels of attainment achieved (if applicable)

Additional Needs (if applicable)

Educational Assessment/Review Acceptable

Yes / No

Child will complete record of achievement

Yes/No

Please tell us anything else you feel we may find useful about yourself or your child

Appendix 2 – Redbrook Primary school

Flexi-schooling Contract

Contract for Provision of Education – Part 1 School Child’s Name

Name of Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Redbrook 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.

Whilstis on school premises or the School is acting in loco parentis the school will maintain primary responsibility for safety and welfare

The school and parent/carer will meet every half 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

Head Teacher: Date:

Contract for Provision of Education – Part 2 Home Child’s Name:

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 I can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing

Parent/carer: Date:

Appendix 3 – Redbrook Primary School Attendance Agreement

Flexi-schooling: Attendance Agreement

Child's name

Name of parent(s) / carer(s)

MORNING AFTERNOON

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Head Teacher: Date:

Parent/carer: Date:

Appendix 4

Relevant Legislation and Guidance

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 Section 61 Contents of Attendance Register

(4) An approved educational activity is either— (a) an activity which takes place outside the school premises and which is— (i) approved by a person authorised in that behalf by the proprietor of the school; (ii) of an educational nature, including work experience under section 560 of the Education Act 1996(1) and a sporting activity; and (iii) supervised by a person authorised in that behalf by the proprietor or the head teacher of the school; or (b) attendance at another school at which the pupil is a registered pupil.

Ofsted Subsidiary Guidance From Part 2: Further guidance about specific settings April 2013, No. 1101662 Alternative/off-site provision

130. It is becoming increasingly common for secondary schools and pupil referral units to use alternative provision in order to meet pupils' particular curriculum needs including college placements, vocational and work placements. 131. Schools are responsible for the outcomes and provision of all their pupils on roll, including those who attend alternative provision. 132. Inspectors must evaluate the robustness and effectiveness with which the school monitors the learning, progress, attendance and behaviour of pupils that receive alternative provision. 133. Inspectors must evaluate:

- how well the school identifies provision that matches pupils' needs and interests and enables them to gain appropriate knowledge and skills
- the quality and safety of the provision
- the pupil's special educational needs, behaviour and/or literacy levels.
- pupils' progress, attendance and behaviour and intervenes to support pupils where needed
- whether any qualifications being taken are at the appropriate level

Elective Home Education Guidelines webpage on the DfE website³: Clarification on flexi-Schooling.

1 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1751/regulation/6/made> 2

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/subsidiary-guidance-supporting-inspection-of-maintainedschools-and-academies-september-2012> 3

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/parents/involvement/homeeducation/a0073367/elective-home-education-guidelines>

On 22nd February 2013, the Government published revised advice on school attendance. The advice clarified the Government's expectations on how various school attendance codes should be used to record pupil school attendance.

Schools should not mark a pupil as attending school, using the attendance code B for off-site education activity, unless the school is responsible for supervising the off-site education, and can ensure the safety and the welfare of the pupil off-site. Schools are ultimately responsible for the attainment of every child registered on their roll. Whilst being home educated, parents and carers are responsible for pupils, not schools.

Where parents have entered in to flexi-schooling arrangements, schools may continue to offer those arrangements. Pupils should be marked absent from school during periods when they are receiving home education.

The reference in the Government's revised advice on school attendance, that was categorical that a school could not agree to a flexi-schooling arrangement, has been removed.

Note: The DfE are in part describing blended flexi-schooling here rather than the formal flexi-schooling dealt with in this document. This makes the advice slightly confusing.

In addition they have over interpreted section 6 (4) of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 which does not say that the school must "ensure" the health and safety of the pupil offsite. Of course normal safeguarding procedures and welfare considerations exist, as with any pupil, but to infer that there are additional safeguarding concerns where a child spends more time with his parents is not logical.

DfE Advice on School Attendance March 2013 Present at an Approved Off-Site Educational Activity

An approved educational activity is where a pupil is taking part in supervised educational activity such as field trips, educational visits, work experience or alternative provision. Pupils can only be recorded as receiving off-site educational activity if the activity meets the requirements prescribed in regulation 6(4) of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.

The activity must be of an educational nature approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school. The activity must take place during the session for which the mark is recorded. Attendance codes for when pupils are present at school are as follows:

Code B: Off-site educational activity -This code should be used when pupils are present at an off-site educational activity that has been approved by the school. Ultimately schools are responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils educated off-site. Therefore by using code B, schools are certifying that the education is supervised and measures have been taken to safeguard pupils.

This code should not be used for any unsupervised educational activity or where a pupil is at home doing school work. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby the provider of the alternative activity notifies the school of any absences by individual pupils. The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

Note: It is acceptable in law to assume that a child is safe with his own parents unless there is evidence to the contrary. In other words risk and or safety assessments of the home are not required even if they would be required of another setting if the non-school provision was in another setting.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f00221879/advice-on-school-attendance>