



Edmund de Moundeford Primary School Flexi-schooling policy.

What is flexi-schooling?

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 through a pattern of provision partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called flexi-schooling. Flexi-schooling arrangements are not the same as elective home education or a temporary reduced time-table arrangement.

Edmund de Moundeford Primary School believes that:

Our inclusive ethos can accommodate most learners.

We give children great opportunities to acquire new knowledge and skills and allow children to apply these skills in a variety of ways, preparing them for life.

We work hard to raise standards and levels of achievement and this is best done within our school community.

We teach skills for life – attendance, punctuality, resilience, tolerance, friendship and working in harmony with their peers.

However, we recognise that parents/carers may choose other ways for their child to engage in very effective, full-time, and suitable education. One way could be for them to request that a school considers entering into a flexi-schooling arrangement. In order for us to enter into a full flexi-schooling arrangement, parents and carers must accept and maintain the rigorous framework of expectations reflected within this policy.

Flexi-schooling is unlikely to succeed if the reasons for choosing it are negative and the choice is motivated by a desire to 'cherry pick' certain activities only or aimed at avoiding difficulties around certain subjects, teachers, peers, aspects of schools' discipline or attendance itself. Therefore we will discuss with you your reasons for being interested in flexi-schooling.

How to make a flexi-schooling request.

The request must be made by a parent/carer who has parental responsibility.

Firstly, they should speak with the Headteacher. They will need to be willing to share their thinking behind this move.

Next, they must put the proposal in writing. The proposal must cover:

The timetable for when the child will be in school.

How you intend to teach your child the National Curriculum when they are not in school.

The reasons why you think this would be better for your child than them being in school full time.

The decision of the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will consider the written proposal for **pupils under statutory school age** on the basis of;

- short, fixed term requests – a term by term review to a maximum of 2 terms
- proposals for a minimum of 4 days in school
- all requests on their own merits
- the best interests of the child; their potential and ongoing educational progress and achievement; their safety, safeguarding and welfare
- any perceived special educational needs and associated provision
- the likely impact on the discipline, morale and organisation of the school.
- the appropriateness of the education proposed and maintained by the parents/carers away from school. The 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 school organisation and funding.
- the impact on overall school attainment and progress figures.

For pupils of **statutory school age** Flexi-schooling will be considered for exceptional circumstances only.

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. The Admissions department for the Local Authority will be informed that a parent has

approached the school to consider a flexi-schooling agreement/or when an agreement is in place. 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.

Agreements with Parents

If the application is approved 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 school's flexi-schooling policy, is bespoke to the individual child and will include:

- the normal, expected pattern of attendance at school;
- arrangements for regular planning and review meetings between parent/carer and school to ensure the child achieves his/her potential and to promote good home/school relationships;
- the rationale for why the flexi-schooling arrangement is in the best interests of the pupil concerned;
- procedures for flexibility around special events which fall outside the normal arrangement; such as, but not limited to, school trips, school productions or performances, sports events, visitors to the school.
- how the register will be marked
- the responsibility of parents/carers regarding attendance at those sessions the child is expected to be in school;
- how the school will follow up any unexpected or unexplained absence in the same way as it does for other children;
- arrangements at times of assessment - it is the expectation of the school that flexischooled children will be assessed at key points, for example end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- agreement that if the parent/carer chooses to employ other people to educate their child at home, they will be responsible for making sure that those whom they engage are suitable to have access to children and will be responsible for meeting all costs related to this decision;
- details of any special educational needs and associated provision;
- clarity about the circumstances under which and with what notice either party can withdraw from the arrangement;
- the arrangements for the resolution of any disputes (usual processes are for disputes to be resolved at the most informal level possible, but ultimately any complaints will need to be considered by the Headteacher first and then the Governing Body as set out under the school's complaints procedure).

If the education being provided at home does not appear to be suitable and/or the arrangement does not appear to be in the best interests of the child the school will ask the parent/carer to take remedial action. If the parent/carer declines to do so or the school is still concerned about the education being provided at home, the school will withdraw its agreement to the flexi-schooling arrangement. The child would then be required to attend at school on a full-time basis. If a child fails to return to full-time attendance the school will leave the absence unauthorised and will follow the absence procedures.

Children with an EHCP

There is no distinction between children who are to be Flexi-schooled and those who are not. The duty to review a child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) on an annual basis still applies.

Funding

The child will be recorded by the school as attending full-time. Therefore, the school will receive full-time funding. Flexi-schooled children are included in census count returns.