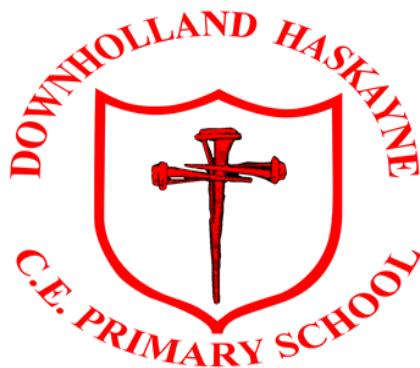


DOWNHOLLAND HASKAYNE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL FLEXI-SCHOOL POLICY



Date of Policy – April 2024
Approved by – J. Smethurst & The Governing Board April 2024
Review date – No later than April 2025

**This policy is effective from April 2024.
Current Flexi-schoolers will continue on the
previous policy and agreement, unless the
flexi-schooling option is withdrawn by the
Headteacher.**

Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School Flexi- Schooling Policy

Our Flexi-schooling provision is predominately aimed at children who are or have been **Elective Home Educated (EHE)**.

In all circumstances, each application is considered on a case by case basis, even within the same family.

Prospective parents need to be fully aware that we will not consider any requests for a Flexi-schooling place from them if their child has been excluded or expelled.

It is important that prospective parents are aware that schools/academies are not required by law to provide or offer Flexi-schooling. When such offers are made each place at Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School is granted at the sole discretion of our Headteacher – there are no rights of appeal to Governors, Trustees, LA, DfE or through the legal system if this provision is declined, varied by the school, or revoked.

If a situation occurs where the Flexi-schooling arrangement is varied or revoked, then those children subject to the signed Flexi-school Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), would be required to attend for additional days if requested or in some cases full-time. If a parent disagrees with this, they are free to take their child or children to another school or to de-register and return the EHE. If a parent elects to de-register, then we are legally required to inform the relevant Local Authority of the de-registration and pass records on to that authority so that they can effectively liaise with the family.

Key Points to Note

It is important for parents to note the following statement provided by the Department for Education (DfE);

'Where parents choose not to have their child educated by full-time attendance at school, then they are responsible for the whole of their child's education.'

DfE 2018

The Education Act clearly states that parents are responsible for the education of their children – this applies to all parents in all circumstances. **This parental responsibility** applies to the delivery of an appropriate education be that by the parent or through the state or independent sectors including **private** individuals

- ***Flexi-schooling can be provided as long as the Headteacher agrees to the arrangement, this arrangement can be amended or withdrawn without challenge.***
- ***Parents should be aware that Flexi-schooling is not to be taken as a means to avoid education or to avoid expulsion, and we will not accept any children on Flexi-schooling arrangements who have been expelled **from another educational establishment**. If a parent misleads the Headteacher in this matter and a past exclusion is uncovered, the flexi-school arrangement will be automatically revoked, and the child in question will be required to attend on a full-time formal basis. In such circumstances, the parents and the child in question will be subject to current statutory expectations relating to Attendance, **behaviour and compliance with school rules** etc.***

What is Flexi-schooling?

Flexi-schooling is an arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school and attends our school for at least '3 consecutive Core Days'; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. These **core** days are non-negotiable.

On Monday and Friday the child **will be** home educated **with an expectation that the child will continue to follow similar core subjects to the ones being taught in school**. However, this policy and our other school policies do not seek to prescribe how children should be taught at home for the home education element of the Flexi-schooling arrangement.

An individual agreement around flexi-schooling is NOT an open-ended offer. It is anticipated that the school, child and parents will work together to enable each child to return to some form of appropriate full time education.

Flexi-schooling will only be offered for up to a maximum of one year. It will be reviewed each term and only extended to the following term if the Headteacher agrees. Following this, the pupil will be expected to attend school on a full time basis.

The terms of **any flexi-school** arrangement can be varied **by the headteacher, after taking into consideration the educational needs of the child to** over and above the core days, or withdrawn. Decisions in this regard are not open to challenge.

All teaching and learning offered on the core days of a child **attending with a flexischool memorandum of understanding will** reflect our curriculum policies as offered to children who attend **school on a full time** basis.

As part of this memorandum between parents and school around flexi-schooling we would expect parents to review our Curriculum, Safeguarding and Child Protection policies, along with our Risk Management, Health, Safety & Welfare policies and use them as a guide to support their own approaches to ensure we are working together.

Our Principles of Flexi-schooling

We see Flexi-schooling as;

- a process of co-operative teamwork **between school, the child and the parents or those with parental responsibility**
- **As a means to support a child to return or start full time education in a way that is appropriate to their educational, emotional and spiritual needs**

Within which;

- we treat all children with kindness and respect
- we praise all children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general
- teaching staff **will** make clear the class expectations **to all involved**
- teachers **will** apply school policies with regard to discipline and classroom management in a **consistent way**
- all children are expected to comply with the rules that are in place to promote the best learning atmosphere for all
- **any** children who misbehave will be managed fairly within the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school Behaviour Policy
- We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

Please note:

Activities, lessons and other events that occur **within school that fall** on home-schooling days for **flexi-schooled children** will not be changed.

What we offer all pupils:

- a short-term, flexible approach to education
- access to a happy, stimulating, secure and safe environment at school
- access to the bank of knowledge, skills, concepts, attitudes, and values of our broad and balanced curriculum.
- **Good and regular attendance is expected for all pupils.**

Flexi-School Option

The attendance **Code C**

Introduction, Integration and General Attendance

Initial meeting

We arrange an initial meeting to ensure that the new child/children and parent(s) understand the clear need for a partnership between parents, children, and school.

Our Academic day begins at **8.45am** and ends at **3.15pm**. Within this time frame we have the following breaks;

- **Morning break** – 10.30am to 10.45am
- **Dinner** - 12.00pm to 1.00pm

We are not able to vary start times, as this disrupts lessons already in progress. All children are expected to arrive promptly for the start of the morning/afternoon sessions; subject to one-off extenuating situations, i.e. medical appointments, accidents etc. All sickness events require that the parents notify the school by **8:45am** on the first day of sickness.

Good and regular attendance is expected for all pupils.

Lateness is recorded in the same fashion as with formal attendance patterns; parents need to be aware that persistent lateness or poor attendance will lead to the revocation of the Flexi-school arrangement and a requirement to then attend full time; no return to Flexi-schooling will be permitted.

Liability

For activities beyond the sole care and charge of teaching staff, the parents/carers of flexi-schooled pupils are fully responsible for their child or children when they are educated at home (or at their chosen offsite venue), even when completing assigned class work. Activities/visits arranged by parents/carers in the same vein are also covered by the same parental responsibility (***please see our Flexi-school Memorandum of Understanding***).

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, we need to see children at least once every ten days to fulfil our Child Protection and Safeguarding obligations these are agreed by a parent/carer signing our MoU (***see also our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy***). As with all children, we have a statutory duty to inform our local Child Protection and Safeguarding officers if any child presents with unusual injuries, or discloses any information that requires their involvement; and then to co-operate fully with any investigations, or follow up actions they deem necessary.

Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Flexi-schooling (MoU)

Parents choosing to Flexi-school their child or children are required to sign our ***Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Flexi-schooling (MoU)***. This document sets out the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in educating their children. It also focuses on the school's responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection (Please read in conjunction with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).

Parents need to be aware that by choosing to Flexi-school their child or children, that they are therefore accepting that they alone are responsible for any future legal redress their child or children may seek.

The MoU also indicates the **core attendance** requirement of three (3) days, **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**. These days/attendance patterns are not negotiable

A Flexi-school place is offered in the same manner as those for Full-time children, so both Monday and Friday are available in addition to the core days if parents wish.

It is extremely important that parents share samples of work carried out at home and the Memorandum of Understanding reflects this.

To ensure that effective integration takes place we require all Flexi-schooled children to wear the school uniform as worn by all of the other children

Our eLearning products can allow children to;

- View or read lesson materials
- Be offered additional tasks
- Play interactive games that give the school feedback on their progress across a range of subjects, including.
 - Mathematics
 - Literacy
 - Coding

Recommended Reading

We strongly recommend that parents considering Flexi-schooling review and develop an understanding of how our school operates and delivers our offer to them on behalf of their child or children.

The following documents describe how we approach a range of topics, (these are not listed in their level of importance).

- All Curriculum Policies
- Assessment & Marking Policies
- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies
- Attendance Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Holidays in Term-time Policy
- Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Flexi-schooling
- Data Protection Policy (including all facets of the GDPR2018)

Monitoring and review

We are aware of the need to review our flexi-schooling policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology, or any other changes to the school.

Implementation of this procedure/policy

We aim to manage the implementation of this procedure/policy with the support and guidance of any relevant body and will be subject to review if legislation dictates.

Signed...

Designation: Chair of Governors and on behalf of the Governing Board **Date** April 2024

Signed...

Designation: Headteacher **Date** April 2024

This procedure/policy is open to review at any time with the next formal review no later April 2025