

## **Flexi- schooling information**

Flexi Schooling is where a child is educated at school part of the time and at home for the rest. Flexi-schooling is different from a child being offered a reduced timetable to support a child reintegrate into full time education or children receiving alternative provision.

Parents who wish to consider flexi-schooling should, in the first instance, contact the head teacher at their child's school (or if their child is not registered at a school then the head teacher of the nearest local age-appropriate school). The head teacher at a school may accommodate flexi-schooling if he/she so wishes but is under no legal obligation to do so.

Some parents may decide that they wish to educate their child partly at school and partly away from school (often at home). This arrangement is sometimes known as "flexi-schooling". Flexi-schooling arrangements might, for example, involve a child being absent from school for a session or more a week to undertake a particular course of study at the parents' home or it might involve a child being absent for one session a week for an extended period of time to follow a prescribed sporting or musical course. In a flexi-schooling arrangement the child remains on the school roll.

Head teachers who receive requests from parents who wish to educate their children partly at school and partly away from school (ie flexi-schooling) is to listen constructively to such requests.

**The head teacher should look at each case individually and consider such issues as:**

- the child's current and anticipated level of educational attainment;
- the explanation given by the parents for their request;
- any additional burden that would fall on school staff in consequence of the school complying with the parents' request;
- the extent to which the programme/activity which the parents propose is both educational and appropriate;
- the critical aspects of the curriculum/teaching in school which might be missed and how these are to be addressed;
- the duration/timescale of the arrangements proposed by the parents;
- whether the school is able to accommodate any concerns expressed by the parents within the parameters of full-time schooling (for example, through an alternative curriculum).

***Note: If the child is undergoing statutory assessment or has a completed EHCP plans, the parent's request for flexi-schooling should be forwarded to the Student Assessment Service.***

The head teacher should consider flexi-schooling only in the circumstances when it can be demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that such arrangements are consistent with:

- the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources;
- the enhanced educational benefit of the child;
- the avoidance of an unreasonable additional workload for members of staff at the school.

It would be good practice for schools to ask parents to produce detailed evidence of the particulars of the flexi-schooling which they are proposing. Parents should be asked to produce supporting/corroborative documentation. When a head teacher believes that flexi-schooling may be an appropriate option for a particular child it would be important to consider an initial period after which the arrangement would be reviewed and evaluated. If at this review time the head teacher considered that the original expectations were not being met, he/she would then withdraw his/her agreement.

Head teachers should not agree to flexi-schooling in circumstances when they consider that the reasons for the request are inappropriate (for example, in a situation when a child is disaffected from certain aspects of the curriculum and the parents express a wish to withdraw the child from those aspects of the curriculum).

Should a head teacher agree to a programme of flexi-schooling then the school should ensure that its attendance register records those sessions when the child is absent due to the flexi-schooling arrangement as C – authorised absence.

### **A child with a medical condition**

If a child has a medical condition that is affecting school attendance, the school must actively investigate this and agree a plan of actions to support the child's education by following the medical needs pathway. An alternative package of education may need to be put in place with the agreement of the parents and professionals. A child's illness should not be a reason for agreeing Flexi Schooling.