

Denton and Harlaxton Church of England Schools

TOGETHER



WE CAN!

Learn
Encourage
Aspire
Respect &
Nurture



Flexi schooling Policy

Policy : Flexi schooling	Date	Signatures of Chair Of FGB & Head
Last Reviewed:	September 2022	
Board of Governors review complete:		
Head teacher review complete:	September 2022	
Admitted as school policy:		
Lifespan:	4 Years	
Date of next review:	Autumn 2026	

This easy to remember statement sums up our vision for our children within our community.

Together we can...

Learn

Encourage

Aspire

Respect

Nurture

At both Denton and Harlaxton schools we follow the 'Leader in me' 7 values.

Value 1: Be Proactive

I am a responsible person. I take initiative.

I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.

I do not blame others for my wrong actions.

I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Value 2: Begin With the End in Mind

I plan ahead and set goals.

I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision.

I look for ways to be a good citizen.

Value 3: Put First Things First

I spend my time on things that are most important.

This means I say no to things I know I should not do.

I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.

I am disciplined and organized.

Value 4: Think Win-Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want.

When conflicts arise, I look for a win-win solution.

Value 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.

I try to see things from their viewpoint (paradigm).

I listen to others without interrupting.

I listen with my ears, my eyes, and my heart. I am confident voicing my ideas.

Value 6: Synergize

I value other people's strengths and learn from them.

I get along well with others, even people who are different than me.

I work well in groups.

I seek out other people's ideas because I know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than any one of us can alone.

I look for Third Alternatives.

Value 7: Sharpen the Saw

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting enough sleep (body).

I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school (brain).

I spend time with family and friends (heart).

I take time to find meaningful ways to help people (soul).

I balance all four parts of myself

1. Context

This document sets out the school's policy towards flexi-schooling, which is an agreement between parent/carer and the school for a pattern of absence from the school to allow the child to receive education at another location for a specific purpose. This document covers reasons why flexi-schooling may be considered in exceptional circumstances, and the ongoing processes that will be necessary to support any such arrangement.

A request for temporary flexi-schooling may be approved in circumstances where there is a realistic expectation, in the school's opinion, that the child will benefit more from the arrangement than staying in school, including consideration of the negative impact that may occur from the child's absence from the school timetable.

Examples where flexi-schooling may be appropriate

Where an independent third party professional advocates this approach for the child

- For medical reasons such as a phased return to education after absence
- For educational reasons such as supporting a child's Special Educational Needs
- For social and emotional reasons such as a short period of absence from the family home whilst the child completes statutory testing and parents have recently relocated

Where parents/carers advocate there is an exceptional opportunity to learn which is not available in school

- Exceptional opportunity for specialist learning which cannot be managed during school holiday periods or weekends

All flexi-schooling agreements will be time bounded and not last more than half a term in one school year for specialist learning opportunities. Up to one day per week is available for flexi-schooling arrangements and this will be a Friday. This is unless a medical professional has recommended a phased return to school due to medical reasons.

The content of the out-of-school element of the flexi-schooling learning will be agreed before the commencement of the agreement, and the child's learning outcomes will be reviewed at the end of the agreement, including assessment of the child's progress within school. It is necessary that the flexi-schooled element of learning be recorded throughout to provide an evidential basis for the review.

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; therefore, the school will ensure that consideration of proposals will be rigorous.

The school determines what it expects the negative impact of absence from planned sessions will be. It is necessary for the parent to demonstrate how they would mitigate this, or if they do not intend to mitigate this, they must present a compelling case for what is proposed, including pre-agreed criteria for success that can be reviewed at the

end of the agreement. The burden of proof is with the parent/carer to demonstrate the child's learning journey and the outcome attributable to the flexi-schooling. This document has been agreed by the governing body to assist the head teacher in taking decisions relating to any requests for flexi-schooling arrangements.

2. Definition

The responsibility for a child receiving full time education rests with parents. In England, education is compulsory, but schooling is not. Where a parent elects to educate a child partly at school and partly at home or, elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called Flexi-schooling. Where a parent favours this form of educational approach s/he may request flexi-schooling.

In 2007 the DCSF (now DfE) published guidance regarding children educated at home in accordance with the wishes of their parents. Paragraph 5.6 of the 'Elective Home Education: Guidelines for Local Authorities'¹ is specific to Flexi-schooling: *"Flexi-schooling" or "flexible school attendance" is an arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school and attends the school only part time; the rest of the time the child is home educated (on authorised absence from school). This can be a long-term arrangement or a short-term measure for a particular reason. "Flexi-schooling" is a legal option provided that the head teacher at the school concerned agrees to the arrangement. The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum whilst at school, but not whilst he or she is being educated at home.*

3. Applying for Flexi-schooling

Parents must put their request in writing (See Appendix A) to the Headteacher at least 4 weeks before they wish the flexi-schooling to take place and arrange a meeting to discuss an agreement. At the meeting the Headteacher will consider the request in accordance with the Flexi-School checklist (See Appendix B) and if appropriate subsequently agree to the request.

4. Criteria for applications for flexi-schooling

Each application will be considered taking into account the following

- The physical and mental well being of the child
- The physical and mental well being of the parent/carer
- The educational needs of the child eg SEN, EAL, Able pupil
- The ability of the parent/carer to provide an environment conducive to learning
- The head teacher's recommendation
- The child's previous progress in school
- The social needs of the child
- The proposed timetable
- Reports from other agencies e.g. speech therapist, Educational Psychologists
- The proposed learning contract
- The proposed period of time over which this arrangement is to take place

5. The Role of the Governing Body

The Headteacher will make a decision on an application for flexi-schooling within two weeks of receiving the application. There is no appeal against the decision of the Headteacher not to agree to a flexi-schooling request or if the Headteacher decides to cease an individual child's flexi-school arrangement. The governing body will 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.

6. Shared understanding

When flexi-schooling has been agreed, the following conditions will apply

- The timetable must remain consistent for the duration of the contract
- The success of the flexi-schooling will be reviewed at half termly intervals
- The arrangement may be changed or terminated by the school should the educational or emotional well being of the child be a concern
- Time spent at home will be marked as 'Authorised Absence' within the school register
- The school's funding for the child will be unaffected

7. Shared Agreement

When flexi-schooling is organised a contract outlining all practicalities must be agreed between the school and the parent/carer (see Appendix C). The contract states:

- The days/half days that the child will attend school
- The period of time that the flexi-schooling will take place (normally one 6 week period within a whole school year unless there is medical recommendation to the contrary)
- A regular review of the arrangements will take place
- The subjects to be taught at home

8. Statutory rights

It is noted that a family undertaking flexi-schooling will have the same statutory rights as those children in full time schooling, specifically

- Parental access to all reports and records
- Access to meetings with the class teacher
- Opportunities to attend school events and functions after school on any day
- Requests for authorised absences

It is noted that in the case of a child undertaking flexi-schooling that the school retain their statutory rights, specifically with regards to:

- Authorised/unauthorised absence
- Access to LA reports
- Reporting to parents/carers any concerns for the child's well being

**APPENDIX A
Denton and Harlaxton CE Primary Schools
Application for Flexi-schooling Arrangements**

Name of child

D.O.B.

Year group

Proposed flexi-school timetable

Name of home tutor

Where home education will take place

Subjects to be taught at home

Letter of application (Reasons/plans etc..)

To be submitted to the Headteacher

Signed by parent/carer_____

Date_____

APPENDIX B
Denton and Harlaxton CE Primary Schools

Flexi-schooling Contract FLEXI-SCHOOLING REQUEST

Checklist and Record

Name of Child

Date of birth

Name and address of parents

Date when request was first made by parents

1. Have the parents fully explained the exact details of the flexi-schooling arrangements they have in mind and the reasons behind their request? Are these reasons appropriate?

2. Has the request been confirmed by the parents in writing?

3. Is the school able to accommodate any concerns expressed by the parents within the parameters of full time schooling?

4. If the pupil has a EHCP has the parents' request been referred to the SENCO for the purpose of amending the EHCP?

5. Does it appear likely that the request, if approved, would impose an additional workload on members of staff? What is the nature of this additional workload?

6. Is the programme/ activity proposed by the parents educational and appropriate? Have the parents produced any documentary evidence to support this? e.g. letters from other educational institutions, sporting academies, etc.

7. Have the parents been made fully aware of their child's current and anticipated level of educational attainment and the potential impact that their request for flexi-schooling might have on this?

8. Have the parents been made fully aware of any critical aspects of the curriculum/assessment/teaching in school that their child will miss if he/she is flexi-schooled?

9. Should the school agree to the parents' request, have arrangements for monitoring and review been discussed and agreed? What timescales have been set? Has an initial review date been agreed?

10. Have the parents been made aware that the school has the right to withdraw any agreement it might make to flexi-schooling arrangements if it considers that the original intentions and expectations are not being met?

11. Should the school be unable to agree to the parents' request, have the reasons for this been fully explained and confirmed in writing?

Decision: Approved/Not Approved (delete as appropriate)
Reason/Comment

Signed:

Date:

Position:

APPENDIX C

Denton and Harlaxton CE Schools

Flexi-schooling Contract

I/We have agreed with Denton and Harlaxton CE Primary Schools that _____(Name of child) will attend school according to the following pattern Each week (please note that unless for medical conditions, children are expected to attend Monday – Thursday. If criteria is met, Flexi Schooling can be normally authorised for up to 1 half term in one year.:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

APPENDIX C

Subjects to be taught at home include: _____

This arrangement will start on _____ and finish on _____

I/We fully understand the agreement being entered in to and take full responsibility for educating _____ at home, in the agreed subjects, at the agreed times.

I/We will work with the school to review the flexi-schooling regularly. The date of the next review is _____

I/We understand that this arrangement may be changed or terminated by the school should the educational or emotional well being of the child be a concern.

I/We will alert the school to any changes to be made to the agreement as soon as possible and understand changes may only be made at the beginning of a term or half term.

I/We will make every effort to ensure _____ attends school events and special activities.

Signed by Parent/Carer _____

Date _____

Agreed and signed by Headteacher _____

Date _____