



Motcombe Infant School
Flexi School Policy



“The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create”

Barack Obama

Our Motto

Flying High Together

Our School Vision

"To build an inclusive learning community that values each individual and promotes confidence and a love of learning through creativity, challenge and high expectations leading to enjoyment and success for all!"

Our School Values

We will support every child

to have academic confidence
to make safe and sensible choices
to be physically fit
to gain mental strength through resilience
to show kindness

Ethos

Every child is unique and individuality is encouraged. We believe that our hygge-inspired environment supports this by promoting children's emotional wellbeing and mental health. We ignite curiosity and wonder and this enables them to learn well.

Equal Opportunities

At Motcombe we believe that all children, regardless of first language, disability, race, gender, cultural or socio-economic background, should receive equal access to the full school curriculum.

Disability Statement

Motcombe is proud to be an inclusive school. We are able to offer access to the full curriculum for all children.

We have easy access into the main part of both buildings and have accessible toilet facilities.

As with any additional needs the school works closely with parents and appropriate outside agencies.

DfE Guidance – February 2024

Summary

- Flexi-schooling is an arrangement between parent(s) and school where children of compulsory school age are registered at the school in the usual way but attend part-time and for the rest of the time they are home educated
- There is no legislation, case law or national guidance that either authorises or forbids flexi-schooling
- There is no parental right to flexi-schooling
- Any decisions regarding flexi-schooling should be made with school and parents working together in the best interest of the child
- The responsibility for flexi-school arrangements lies with the school and not the Local Authority and schools will work with parents to address any issues which arise.

What is flexi-schooling?

- Flexi-schooling is an arrangement for providing a full-time education with the child attending school part of the time and educated elsewhere for the rest of the time.
- It is an individual arrangement made between the school and the parent(s).
- The Department for Education (DfE) recognises flexi-schooling as a valid full-time education.
- There is no pre-determined model for the amounts of time given to either of the settings and individual arrangements vary widely.
- Flexi-schooling is full time and therefore differs from temporary part-time attendance arrangements which the school/parent/carer may seek to make.
- Such arrangements are monitored and reviewed with the intention that the child be returned to full time attendance as soon as possible.
- Children who attend part-time under a flexi-schooling arrangement will be subject to the same admissions processes as other children and are counted in the same way as a child who attends full-time for the purposes of infant class size regulations.
- School receives full funding for any flexi-schooled child on its roll and remains responsible for educational outcomes, safeguarding, attendance etc.
- Arrangements for flexi-schooling can only be made at the request of a parent/carer.
- There is no right to request flexi-schooling, it is at the discretion of the Headteacher and their explicit permission is required before any flexi-schooling arrangements start.
- There is no right of appeal against the decision of a Headteacher not to agree a flexi-schooling request.

Requesting flexi-schooling

If a parent/carer is interested in requesting flexi-schooling, they should contact the Headteacher to discuss the proposal in detail, in particular clarifying why the request is in the best interests of the child.

The Headteacher decides on an individual basis whether to agree to a request for flexi schooling.

The decision to undertake flexi-schooling should only be taken if there are positive reasons for doing so and where all parties agree that such an arrangement is in the best interests of the child

What should parents consider before making a request?

Flexi-schooling can work well if parents have the time, energy and resources to devote to educating their children part-time outside of a traditional school environment.

The education provided at home and at school should together constitute full-time.

Whilst there is no statutory curriculum to be followed at home, parent/carers will need to be mindful of the impact on the child's access to the curriculum and the possible fragmentation of the learning experience.

With this in mind, parent/carers may wish to discuss with the school the topics being covered and those being missed during flexi-schooling periods. This enables parents/carers to complement the schoolwork at home and cover missed topics in their own way should they feel this is appropriate.

Flexi-schooling is less successful when it is requested as a way of opting out of an element of the curriculum with which a child, for whatever reason, is uncomfortable or the choice is motivated by the desire to avoid difficulties around certain subjects, teachers, peers, aspects of school discipline or attendance itself.

What should headteachers consider when considering a request for flexi-schooling?

All requests must be considered by the Headteacher on their own merits.

The Headteacher will consider the best interests of the child; their educational progress and achievement; their safety, safeguarding and welfare.

The safeguarding of any child should always be of paramount importance, so any decisions should be taken with the knowledge of any existing safeguarding concerns.

Where a child attends another setting on those days when not in school it is incumbent on the parent to ensure the adequacy of the safeguarding arrangements in operation at this setting; however, the Headteacher will still need to act in response to any concerns that may arise.

Monitoring flexi-schooling arrangements

The school retains the responsibility for the child's progress and for tracking that progress.

It is good practice to schedule in periodic liaison between the school and the parent so that the topics being covered in school can be explained.

Flexi-schooling agreements

To ensure that expectations and arrangements are clear for both parties, where flexi schooling is agreed a written agreement between the school and parent/carer will be signed.

Flexi-schooling for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan

Where a child has an Education Health and Care Plan, good practice is to consider a request for flexi-schooling via an Annual Review.

Appendix A - Contract and Attendance Agreement

Appendix B – Home School Agreement

Appendix A- Contract and Attendance Agreement

To be filled in alongside School Enrolment form either by parent(s) or during meeting

Child's name		Name of	
Admissions form completed Yes / No			
<p>What are your reasons applying for flex-schooling? Why do you think that it is in the best educational interests of your child?</p>			
<p>How will you organise the learning of your child when absent for flexi-schooling?</p>			
<p>If your child is in KS1, will you ensure that your child continues to follow the National Curriculum?</p>			
<p>Explain how you will provide appropriate supervision of your child during the flexi-periods of learning at home.</p>			
<p>Will you be able to provide a suitable workspace for your child to work?</p>			

Appendix B -Flexi-schooling Home School Agreement

During the period of the flexi-schooling arrangements;

- The pupil may attend special events which take place on the agreed non-school days/ times.
- Parents retain the same access to records, reports and opportunities to meet with teachers as the other children who attend school on a full-time basis e.g.: parents' evenings, school reports.

Termination of the flexi-school agreement.

- The timetable will be subject to regular review meeting between parent(s) and the Headteacher. This meeting will inform the decision as to whether the flexi-school agreement continues to be in the best interests of the child, and therefore is to continue.
- The parent may terminate the flexi-schooling agreement, at any point during the academic year. The date of return to full time education will be

Child's name		Parent/carer name				
DOB	Year Group	UPN				
Days /times of attendance of child		Monday AM/PM	Tuesday AM/PM	Wednesday AM/PM	Thursday AM/PM	Friday AM/ PM
Date of the start of the flexi-school arrangement						
Date of first formal review						
We fully understand and agree to follow the contract and agree to fully engage with the school to ensure that the best interests of the child are always met.						
Headteacher Signature						
Parent/Carer Signature(s)						
Date						

Original for student file, copy to parents