

# We are a Flexi School – but what does that mean?



How does it work?  
Who can flexi school?  
What does it look like?  
Are there any benefits  
for my children?

What impact does it have on  
the full-time children, in the  
classroom? How does this  
effect teaching and learning?  
Does the school give work to  
do on flexi days?



How will the teachers plan?  
What will the week look like?  
Will children miss out? Will  
children have to catch up or  
wait for others to catch up  
on work they have missed?  
What do the flexi children  
do?

# What is Flexi Schooling?

We know that parents, extended families and carers are involved in their children's education in many different ways such as reading together, talking, supporting homework, learning together, playing games, cooking, sports, clubs, outings, activities, swimming, experiences, visits, building Lego models, and much more.

Flexi-schooling is used to describe a situation where a child's parents or carers opt to educate their children for part of the time, during the school week.

Rackenford Church of England supports this choice and acknowledges that, "*parental involvement in children's education from an early age has a significant effect on educational achievement and continues to do so into adolescence and adulthood*". Sylva, et al (2004) Effective preschool education, Final report DFES. London: Institute of Education.

## Is it legal? What are the expectations?

Flexi-schooling is agreed at the discretion of the Head Teacher working under the Governing Body. Regular termly reviews seek to ensure that the arrangement is working and that children are making good progress over time. Every child who is flexi schooled receives a home visit at least annually and arrangements are changed if they are not working.

**Curriculum** - together we will ensure a broad, balanced, rich and diverse curriculum offer, which will enable all children to make good or better progress over time.

**Communication** - We commit to a working relationship, which relies on open communication and mutual respect.

**Ensuring quality** – parents/carers will provide evidence of their child's learning journey and progress over time.

Our memorandum of understanding (MOU) seeks to ensure that there is an understanding/partnership with parents so that everybody knows what

is expected of them. For example, parents/carers need to know that their child is their responsibility on the days when they are not attending school.

## Will flexi school affect school attendance? Will parents be fined?

**Attendance** – there is no absence code, which fully reflects flexi-schooling.

Code C: Leave of absence authorised by the school. This is usually only given in exceptional circumstances however, the current DFE Guidance requires schools to mark a child as Code C in the attendance register for any sessions when educated at home.

Code B: Offsite educational activity. The school should only use this code when a child is present at an off-site educational activity that has been approved and run by a provider. This might be an organised regular activity, club, forest school, etc. it is important that you inform the school if your child is ill or not attending a regular planned educational activity. Parents will not receive a penalty for authorised absence due to flexi school timetable. Illness is recorded in the same way as full time. Absences on non-flexi days will be marked as unauthorised if it is not due to illness, medical appointments or exceptional circumstances.

## What Might Flexi Schooling Look Like?

### How many days do children come to school?

Three or four days attendance at school is recommended: research has shown that this gives a good balance between school and home education. Our 'flexi pathway' options reflect this. You can flexi just on a Thursday and Friday afternoon too if you would like your children to attend the morning session. Children in year 6 have a slightly different flexi pathway for the Spring and Summer terms. This is to enable them to complete the year six curriculum and prepare for their KS2 SATS.

## Will children miss out on what is being taught?

### Will they have to catch up?

We plan for teaching and learning in two learning blocks within the week. We group Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday together as one block of connected learning and then Thursday and Friday as a second block of connected learning. The core subjects of English and Maths are taught in the mornings with science and foundation subjects in the afternoons. Flexi children will not be expected to catch up on work they have missed on the Thursday and Friday. Likewise, full-time children will not be held back to wait for flexi children to catch up on work.

Our staff are happy to plan in this way. It does not create any additional workload and it suits our project-based way of organising and teaching our broad and balanced curriculum.

### Evidence of a learning journey and progress over time

Flexi schooling can be a wonderful opportunity to be led by your child's passions and interests as well as opportunities to explore provisions outdoors, visits such as museums, galleries and activities further afield. Flexi families are free to plan and organize their own learning activities and experiences. We are happy to provide advice and resources such as books, etc.

We ask that flexi families evidence their learning journey. This could be.....

- A learning journal or diary
- Annotations of 'what they can do now'
- Photographs with explanation of learning activity
- Piece of writing – recounts, explanations, other outcomes
- Poem
- Story
- Awards

- drawings
- Artwork, artifacts
- Projects
- Documents, leaflets, information from visits, places of interest, etc.
- Use of learning evidence templates (on website)
- IT outcomes
- Digital portfolio
- And lots more ways!

Evidence can be shared half termly or on Class Dojo more regularly. The child's teacher will consider this evidence along with evidence of progress from their school learning activities to build a complete learning journey. This will enable teacher assessments to be accurate.

## What will school provide?

- Flexi-pathway options
- Termly meetings with Head of School (HoS) to review your child's progress and your flexi pathway
- Regular 'check ins' to share evidence, ideas and information (please make an appointment with your child's teacher)
- As with any other parent or carer we are available daily if you have any concerns.
- An overview of the curriculum and what children will be learning over the half term/term
- A list of possible activities and visits linked to the whole school theme for the term
- A calendar of school events
- PTFE information
- Curriculum documents (available on the website)
- Possible use of resources, books, etc

# Flexi-Pathways

A school day is made up of two sessions, one in the morning from 9.00 am and one in the afternoon until 3.30 pm. A full week therefore, is made up of ten sessions; five sessions in the mornings Monday to Friday, and five in the afternoons. The school day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 3.30.

## A full school week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM					
PM					

To ensure continuity and consistency for all, we ask that you sign up to one of two flexi-pathway options. Your child would attend school for at least three full days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) with up to 2 full days flexi days (Thursday and/or Friday)

## Flexi- school option 1: attend school for 3 full days per week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM					
PM					

## Flexi-school option 2: attend school for 4 full days per week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM					
PM					

If you would like to just Flexi in the afternoons on a Thursday and /or Friday please indicate.

## **Flexi days**

Once you have selected your preference, we ask that you keep to this for a term. Flexi pathways can be considered for change at the termly review meeting unless circumstances require this earlier.

We will inform you of all events in school, class visits, sports fixtures, clubs, etc. happening. If you would like your child to attend but these are on your flexi home days this can be arranged.

As for all parents, if there are exceptional circumstances, which you would like to apply for a leave of absence outside our flexi agreement, please apply using the appropriate request form available from Michaela in the school office.

## **Funding**

The school receives full funding for all children, and top up funding for those children who qualify for the additional pupil premium funding. This means that we get the same amount of money coming into school per child for Flexi children, just like full time children

## **What are some of the advantages?**

Strategically offering flexi schooling to our learning community has brought growth and stability in maintaining our lovely school. This was vitally important as our numbers were dangerously low which meant we were struggling to be viable.

We have families from a variety of locations, which brings even more diversity into a small rurally isolated village school. More children equals more friends! Children have become more aware of the needs of others. Our full-time children are particularly mindful to include flexi children when timetabling trips, events, fundraisers, school council, etc. for 2 days a week non-flexi children get a smaller teacher to pupil ratio which means more one to one time with the staff. Our flexi children share their out of

school learning experiences with others which promotes further learning and sharing of knowledge, skills, language, vocabulary, interest, engagement and much more....

## **Part Time Timetable – how is this different from Flexi Schooling?**

Some children need the flexibility of a bespoke part time timetable. This is not the same as flexi schooling. This is usually arranged to support an education need or disability, recovery from illness or a particular family circumstance. We would try to work up to a full time table or full Flexi timetable moving forwards.

## **Can anyone Flexi School their children?**

Parents and carers who are considering Flexi School will have an initial meeting with the Head of School. They will discuss their reasons for requesting flexi school, sharing their ideas about how they will provide an education for their child and what this may look like. The Head of School will carefully consider this along with the child's learning needs, their overall attendance, any safeguarding concerns and information from teachers/SENdCo or other agencies. Following this a decision will be made.

If Flexi-schooling is agreed then the parents /carers will be asked to read and sign the Flexi School Memorandum of understanding and Contract.

As Flexi schooling is at the Head of School's discretion, the flexi schooling contract can be withdrawn at any time especially if there are concerns about the safeguarding of the child, there is persistent or reoccurring absence or if the child is not making good progress over time.

We hope this has unpacked a few of your questions and queries about flexi schooling. If you have any questions or need more information please contact school.





## Flexi-School Agreement

I / We have discussed, with the HoS my /our request to flexi-school my son/daughter. I / We would like to enter into a flexi-school arrangement with RPS for the education of my child.

Name of Child..... Year group/Class.....

Name of parent/s/carers.....

**Flexi- school option 1: attend school for 3 full days per week**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM					
PM					

**Flexi-school option 2: attend school for 4 full days per week**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM					
PM					

I would like my child to begin flexi schooling on:.....

**Year 6 Flexi- schooling options for the Spring and first half the summer term**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM					
PM					

Please note that Year 6s will only be offered the full flexi day options during the Autumn term. In the Spring term and the first half term of the Summer term, Year 6 pupils may only flexi on a Thursday and/or Friday afternoon due to SATs preparation. Full Flexi options can resume following the last SAT usually around the end of the second week in May.

**Signed**

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Sarah Maude (HoS)

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Parent / carer

