Flexi schooling policy statement 2026/2027

Simon Marks Jewish Primary school recognises the importance and value of children learning through a home/school partnership model.

As such parents/carers may choose other ways for their child or young person to engage in very effective, full-time, and suitable education.

One way could be for them to request that our school considers entering into a flexi-schooling arrangement between home and school.

In order for our school to enter into and continue a flexi-schooling arrangement the initial request must be parent led.

The school will not suggest or encourage a family to undertake flexi-schooling. It is at the schools leadership's discretion whether or not a pupil may be flexi taught.

Background

The responsibility for a child receiving full-time education while he or she is of statutory school age lies with the parent or guardian/carer.

Where a parent/carer educates a child partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called flexi-schooling.

In November 2007 the Department for Education issued "Elective Home Education: Guidelines for Local Authorities" which contained the following paragraph (5.6) "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 of the time; the rest of the time the child is home educated.

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 / leadership & management team at the school concerned agrees to the arrangement.

What needs to happen?

Your child will be required to follow the National curriculum whilst at school but not whilst he or she is being educated at home. A parent/carer may request flexi-schooling on a long-term basis where he or she favours this form of education or they may request flexi-schooling for a short period, when, for example, the child is unable to attend school every day due to illness or injury.

The terms of the flexi schooling will be discussed with the Headteacher and reviewed termly. Further absences from school and how pupils are to be educated will be discussed and agreed during this review meeting.

This section sets out the principles by which the Senior Leadership Team will manage the flexi-schooling policy at our school.

- Each application for flexi-schooling will be considered on its own merits balancing out the needs of the child emotionally, socially and educationally
- A child's attainment should be at or above age related expectations (however, each case will be evaluated on its own merits and a parent/carer may be directed to support their child at home on a flexi-schooling day if they need some specific support in certain elements of their learning)
- Flexi-schooling may considered as an option for some children who have specific educational, emotional or social needs and this will always be negotiated individually with parents
- Flexi-schooling agreements are made between the Senior Leadership Team and the parent/s and is made on a termly basis (broadly twelve weeks)
- Once a parent has agreed to flexi-schooling they are committed to the entire term.
- Parents/carers are required to attend at least termly flexi-schooling meetings
- Whilst at school your child will participate in all school activities and celebrations- there can be flexibility of days in attendance if they are part of a class performance or school trip
- There may be flexibility in attendance- it may be that your child attends more days one week and fewer in another- this can be discussed and arranged with the senior team- communication is crucial

What else should parents/carers consider?

The implications of making partial educational provision at home are significant, both in terms of expertise and resources and in the commitment to make a shared provision work.

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 curriculum and the possible fragmentation of the child's learning experience.

Flexi-schooling within our school is unlikely to succeed if the reasons for choosing it are negative and the choice is motivated by a desire to 'cherry pick' certain activities only or aimed at avoiding difficulties around certain subjects, teachers, peers, aspects of schools discipline or attendance itself.

Simon Marks has an inclusive approach to education and strives hard to work with the wishes and choices of all parents. The school expects parents of flexi-school children to uphold the school's ethos, values, policies and practice. Strong and reciprocal partnership

between home and school is key to a successful and sustainable flexi-schooling arrangement.

Flexi-schooling does not give an alternative means of opting out of an element of the curriculum with which a child, for whatever reason, is uncomfortable.

Parents need to be mindful of the class Curriculum newsletter and topics being followed for each subject area.

Attendance codes used during flexi schooling: (taken from guidance)

Attendance codes for when pupils are present at approved off-site educational activities are as follows:

Code B: Off-site educational activity. This code should be used when pupils are present at an off-site educational activity that has been approved by the school.

Ultimately schools are responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils educated off-site. Therefore by using code B, schools are certifying that the education is supervised and measures have been taken to safeguard pupils.

This code should not be used for any unsupervised educational activity or where a pupil is at home doing school work. Schools should ensure that they have in place arrangements whereby the provider of the alternative activity notifies the school of any absences by individual pupils. The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code. Present at an Approved Off-Site Educational Activity An approved educational activity is where a pupil is taking part in supervised educational activity such as field trips, educational visits, work experience or alternative provision. Pupils can only be recorded as receiving off-site educational activity if the activity meets the requirements prescribed in regulation 6(4) of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. The activity must be of an educational nature approved by the school and supervised by someone authorised by the school. The activity must take place during the session for which the mark is recorded.

Code C: Authorised absence not covered elsewhere. This code should be used when pupils are not present in school and will be completing school work at home as part of their flexi schooling arrangement.

Appendix A

Flexi-schooling Agreement

Name of Parent / Carer	
Name of Child	
Date of Birth	
Current Class /Year Group	
Reason for requesting flexi-schooling	
I / We understand the following conditions of the flexi-schooling arrangement: The School makes this agreement as per the terms and conditions set out in the flexi-schooling policy	
That parents / carers retain full responsibility for their child's safety when not on school premises and whilst in their care, including travel to and from school	
That parents / carers retain full responsibility for ensuring that their child receives a full time education	
That parents / carers must report their child's absence through the appropriate channels if the child is unable to attend school on the agreed dates.	
That each flexi-schooling agreement must be reviewed termly (approximately every 12 weeks).	
That Simon Marks Jewish Primary School will continue to monitor the child's welfare as per the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and all relevant legislation.	
Parent carer name/s	
Date Flexi-Schooling starts:	
Signature/s	
Date:	
Review Date:	