



The Forest CE Federation

*'Small enough to care. Large enough to inspire
valuing all God's children'
'All things are possible for one who believes' Mark 9 v 23*

The Forest CE Federation Flexi Schooling Policy

Date reviewed – October 2022

Next Review – October 2024



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Introduction

At the Forest CE Federation we recognise the right of parents/carers to choose a suitable and personalised education for their child according to the child's dispositions and needs and the families' beliefs and values. We welcome all children irrespective of background or belief to our schools, and firmly believe that our flexi-schooling provision can be an arrangement which is beneficial to all.

Our flexi-schooling provision is only available to children who are currently Elective Home Educated and is offered at the discretion of the Headteacher – there are no rights of appeal if this provision is declined, varied by the school or revoked.

Parents should be aware that flexi-schooling is not to be taken as a means to avoid education, or to avoid being excluded, and we will not accept any children on flexi-schooling arrangements who have been excluded.

In order for our schools to enter into and continue a flexi schooling arrangement parents and carers must accept and maintain the framework of expectations reflected within this policy.

This policy is intended to assist parents considering whether to request that the education of their statutory-age child is partly at school and the remainder elsewhere, generally at home. This is generally known as flexi schooling.

The Forest CE Federation is happy to discuss requests from parents who wish their child to have a flexible education.

The Forest CE Federation insist that children need to spend a minimum of 3 days in school as part of their flexi-school agreement. These 3 days must be consecutive and the same each week; changes to these days need to be made in writing in advance. Requests to change set days will only be made in exceptional circumstances. If a school or residential trip fall on home school days, children may attend these events as extra days.



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Background

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

Where a parent educates 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 educates a child entirely at home as an expression of parental preference, this is called elective home education.

Flexi-schooling can be defined as:

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 (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 Headteacher 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.

(DCSF (Now Department for Education DfE) 2007. Elective Home Education: Guidance for Local Authorities)

Flexi schooling must not be confused with elective home education. Parents have a legal right to choose to home educate their child but parents do not have a legal right to insist on a flexi schooling arrangement being agreed by our schools.

There is no statutory curriculum for the home education element of our flexi-schooling arrangement. None the less we promote without pressure the opportunities the partnership flexi-schooling brings – and from that we hope that this partnership will develop in a manner that is mutually beneficial to all parties.

Aims

- We believe being small rural schools affords a number of opportunities – flexi-schooling is one of these opportunities that work's well in our unique rural environments.
- We believe that people learn in many different ways and we endeavour to provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.



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- We believe that we enable all children to become lifelong learners by developing transferable skills to equip them to succeed in a competitive world.
- We believe in the “whole child” and are committed to children’s wider well-being.
- We believe all children are important and from that we tailor our teaching and learning to suit the needs of each child, to ensure they develop at their own pace.
- We believe that to meet these individual needs, each child can be offered personalised learning which is agreed with children and parents, taking advantage of individualisation is a key success driver for our schools.

Flexi-schooled pupils also indirectly offer a different insight on education to our pupils. We offer all our children –

- A flexible approach to Education that encompasses and supports all children
- The encouragement to develop a growth mindset. To help them take a positive approach to facing challenges, to believe that they can learn, change and develop needed life skills.
- Access to a happy, stimulating, secure and safe environment in school that offers all children an equal opportunity to develop their own individual abilities and personalities, helping to unlock their potential.
- Access to a bank of knowledge, skills, concepts, attitudes and values of our broad and balanced curriculum, that fosters a lifelong love of learning, in a shared environment where pupils, parents and teachers can effectively work together, enhancing the education provision for all.
- The opportunity for our children to share a healthy respect for personal choice and a clear understanding and acceptance of others and their ideals.
- The opportunity to develop a responsible and independent attitude towards learning.

The Principles of Flexi-schooling

We see Flexi-schooling as:

- A process of co-operative team work, within which we welcome and encourage the involvement of parents in the education of their children.

Within which:

- We treat all children fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities.
- We treat all children with kindness and respect.



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- We praise all children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards our school and learning in general.
- We insist on good order and behaviour at all times.
- We encourage all our pupils to be good role models.
- We encourage all our pupils to become respectful and resourceful young adults.
- We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.
- We liaise effectively with the parents of our children who have chosen flexi-schooling.

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide all children with a varied, exciting 'hands on' learning experiences. We provide a creative, stimulating and engaging curriculum that is accessible to all pupils, where each child will develop their individual talents, interests and skills. We are passionate about providing continuous provision within the classrooms and outdoor spaces, to give children the opportunity to be independent active learners and to enhance their interests and learning.

Attendance

We recommend to parents that their child or children should attend the school on a trial basis in the first instance, prior to registering; this approach will allow our Headteacher in conjunction with staff to determine if a flexi-schooling approach will benefit the child or children concerned. If a child is accepted on roll to attend on flexi-schooling basis – the parents/carer are fully responsible for the Safeguarding and Child Protection elements relating to that child or children when they are being Home Educated or Educated by a 3rd party at the arrangement of the parent/carer. These responsibilities pass to the school when the child attends normal lessons or attend school visits being arranged by the school.

Our school day

Begins with Registration at 9 am and ends at 3.30 pm. (Stoke Bruerne is 8:55am until 3:15pm) Within this framework we have the following breaks;

- Morning break – 10.30 am to 10.45 am.
- Lunch – 12 pm to 1 pm
- Afternoon break – 2.15 pm to 2.30 pm (KS1 only)

We are not able to vary start times, given this disrupts lessons already in progress. All children are expected to arrive promptly for the start of the morning/afternoon sessions. If attendance falls below 93% the flexi-schooling agreement will be reviewed.



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Working together

For flexi-schooling to work well it's important that schools and parents work together. The flexi-schooling agreement needs to be a partnership between all parties involved. All parties need to be open and honest with each other and address any concerns that may arise.

Flexi-schooling Home/School Agreement

The agreement sets out expectations so that everything is clear for all concerned (see Appendix 1).



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Appendix 1 – The Forest CE Federation

Flexi-schooling Home/School Contract

Contract for Provision of Education – Part 1School

Child's Name:

Name of Parent/Carer:

.....Primary School is responsible for the education of the above named child on the days and times set out in the attached Attendance Agreement and timetable.

The educational provision will be suitable to’s age, aptitude and ability as set out in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.

Whilst Is on school premises or the School is acting in loco parentis the school will maintain primary responsibility for safety and welfare.

The school and parent/carer will meet every term for a review meeting to discuss’s progress and review the attendance agreement.

The school can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing (one month).

Head Teacher:

Date:

Contract for Provision of Education – Part 2 Home

Child's Name:

D.O.B

Name of parent/carer:

I/we are responsible for the education of the above named child on the days and times set out in the attached Attendance Agreement and timetable.

During school hours timetabled for home-based education I/we will maintain primary responsibility for’s safety and welfare.

I/we understand that I/we can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing (one month). **Parent/carer:** **Date:**



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Appendix 2 – The Forest CE Federation

Flexi-schooling Home/School Contract

Attendance Agreement:

Child's Name:

D.O.B.

Name of Parent/Carer:

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Parent/Carer signature:

Date:

Agreed by Headteacher/Deputy Head:

Date:



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