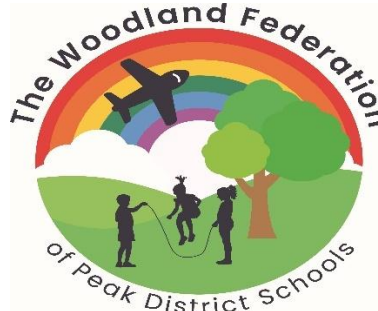


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Flexi-School Policy and MOU

Review: Annually

Links to UNCRC			
Date of Governor Approval	Narrative - Author	Minute Number	Review Date
1 st February	New Policy for Woodland Federation of Peak District Schools		September 2021
12/10/2021	Amended to show Stoney Middleton and Great Hucklo policy		September 2022
13/10/2022	Rearranged information under 'Attendance Options' to include registration codes		September 2023
16/01/2024	Added 4 th Bullet point on Page 3, changed schools on Page 6 to state Federation, Included Attendance Targets for Flexi-School children		
22/10/2025			

Here at The Woodland Federation of the Peak District Schools, we recognise the right of parents to choose a suitable and personalised education for their child according to the child's disposition

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and needs coupled with the families' beliefs and values.

We welcome all children irrespective of need, background or belief to our school, and we firmly believe that Flexi-schooling provision can be an arrangement which is beneficial to all.

Flexi-schooling provision is predominately aimed at children who are or have been Elective Home Educated (EHE). We will, however, also consider requests from parents whose children are finding formal education in their current setting a challenge that is likely to lead them to school refuse.

In all circumstances, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, even within the same family.

Prospective parents need to be fully aware that we will not consider any requests for a Flexi-schooling place from them if their child has been excluded or expelled. However, this would not prevent you from applying for a normal place.

It is important that prospective parents are aware that schools are not required by law to provide or offer Flexi-schooling. When such offers are made, each place is granted at the sole discretion of our Headteacher – there are no rights of appeal to Governors, LA, DfE or through the legal system if this provision is declined, varied by the school, or revoked.

If a situation occurs where the Flexi-schooling arrangement is varied or revoked, then those children subject to the signed Flexi-school Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), would be required to attend for additional days if requested or in some cases full-time. If a parent disagrees with this, they are free to take their child or children to another school or to de-register and return to EHE. If a parent elects to de-register, then we are legally required to inform the relevant Local Authority of the de-registration and pass records on to that authority so that they can effectively liaise with the family.

It is worth noting that in all instances the Education Act clearly states that parents are responsible for the education of their children – this applies to all parents in all circumstances and applies to the delivery of an appropriate education be that by the parent or through the state or independent sectors including individuals:

- **Flexi-schooling is a legal option provided that our Headteacher agrees to the arrangement, this arrangement can be amended or withdrawn without challenge.**
- **Where we are able to meet a child's needs, we are able to accept children with an EHCP, on the understanding that unless the EHCP specifies the need for a flexi arrangement and funding/responsibility is allocated accordingly, the child will be required to attend on a full-time basis. This ensures that we can meet any statutory duties the EHCP places on our academy, regarding its commitment to the child, extending to the appointment of key staff dedicated to the child and to ensure that**



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'best value' is achieved.

- **Parents should be aware that Flexi-schooling is not to be taken as a means to avoid education or to avoid expulsion, and we will not accept any children on Flexi-schooling arrangements who have been excluded from other provisions. If a parent misleads our Headteacher in this matter and a past exclusion is uncovered, the flexi-school arrangement will be automatically revoked, and the child in question will be required to attend on a full-time formal basis. In such circumstances, the parents and the child in question will be subject to current statutory expectations relating to attendance etc.**
- **Parents who choose to educate a child in these ways rather than sending the child to school full-time take on financial responsibility for the cost of doing so, including the cost of any external assistance used such as tutors, parent groups or part-time alternative provision.**

What is 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 our school for at least '3 consecutive Core Days'; the rest of the time the child is home educated (on an authorised absence from school, code C). This arrangement is an open-ended offer. However, the terms of this arrangement can be varied over and above the core days, or withdrawn if our Headteacher decides to do so, and decisions in this regard are not open to challenge.

Flexi-schooling is a legal option provided that our Headteacher agrees to the arrangement. The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum while at school but not while they are being educated at home'.

There is no statutory curriculum for the home education element of our flexi-schooling arrangement. Nonetheless 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.

All teaching and learning offered on the core days reflect our curriculum policies as offered to children who attend on a formal basis. This policy and our other school policies do not seek to prescribe how children should be taught at home for the home education element of the Flexi-schooling arrangement.

We would encourage parents to review our school policies and use them as a guide to support their own approaches to ensure we are working together.

Our Principles of Flexi-schooling



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We see Flexi-schooling as;

- a process of co-operative teamwork, 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
- we praise all children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards our school and learning in general
- our teachers apply our policies with regard to discipline and classroom management
- teaching staff make clear the class code of conduct
- all children are expected to comply with the rules that are in place to promote the best learning atmosphere for all
- we insist on good order and behaviour at all times
- children who misbehave will be managed fairly within the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school Behaviour Policy
- We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

Aims

Being small rural schools affords us the ability to offer some opportunities not readily offered elsewhere – Flexi-Schooling is one of these opportunities that work well in our unique small school rural environment.

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.

We believe all children are important and from that we tailor our teaching and learning suited to the needs of each child, to ensure they develop at their own pace, with access to any level of education irrespective of their age.

Flexi-schooled pupils also indirectly expand what we can offer to our regular pupils, encouraging them to focus on the benefits of learning after normal hours at home and thereby enhance their opportunities also.

Summarised - these points are what we offer to all pupils;

- a more flexible approach to education that encompasses and supports all children
- access to a happy, stimulating, secure and safe environment both in school and at home that offers all



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children an equal opportunity to develop their abilities and personalities, helping to unlock their potential

- access to the bank of knowledge, skills, concepts, attitudes, and values of our broad and balanced

curriculum. This 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

Attendance Options

We offer two schooling options at The Woodland Federation of Peak District Schools;

- Formal Option – Full-time regular education within statutory guidelines (normal registration codes)
- Flexi-School Option* – Flexi-schooled education, where the child comes on the core days of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, wears school uniform and joins in with the timetabled opportunities for that day

Parents/children who choose to Flexi-school are deemed by the DfE to be responsible for ALL of their child or children's education. There is no requirement for children to follow the direction of the school when at home and they are free to follow their own approach to how education should be delivered.

Guidance on the Registration of Attendance and our interpretation and use of current coding structure

In all cases of Flexi-schooling, we use the attendance Code C, which states: special circumstances not covered elsewhere.

We accept that Code C will impact the whole school attendance. However, it will not impact on the child or parents as it is regarded as an authorised absence. DfE/Ofsted have indicated that schools offering Flexi-schooling would need to demonstrate that the offer was of benefit to the child concerned and that in such cases the school concerned would not be penalised due to lower than expected attendance figures.



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Attendance Targets for Flexi-Schooled children are:

3 days attendance – 57.66%

4 day attendance – 76.88%

This correlates to a 96% attendance target of a full-time equivalent student.

Introduction, Integration and General Attendance

Initial meeting

We arrange an initial meeting to ensure that the new child/children and parent(s) understand the clear need for a partnership between parents, children, and school.

The integration of Flexi-schooled pupils within the school community

Our timetable is organised so that children who are Flexi-schooled can continue follow-up work after attending what we term the three 'Core Days' of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We recommend to parents that their child or children should attend the school on a trial basis in the first instance, before 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. The trial will be for one week (three core days) unless a longer time is deemed necessary.

If a child is accepted on roll to attend on the flexi-school basis, parents need to be aware that they are fully responsible for the Safeguarding and Child Protection elements relating to their child when away from the school and being Home Educated. This extends to Education provided by a 3rd party arranged by the parent/carer/responsible adult. These responsibilities pass to the school only when the child attends normal lessons or attends academic visits arranged by the school with our staff present.

All children are expected to arrive promptly for the start of the morning/afternoon sessions, subject to one-off extenuating situations, i.e. medical appointments, accidents etc. All sickness events require that the parents notify the school.

Lateness is recorded in the same fashion as with formal attendance patterns; parents need to be aware that persistent lateness could lead to the revocation of the Flexi-school arrangement and a requirement to then attend full time; no return to Flexi-schooling will be permitted.

Liability For activities beyond the sole care and charge of academy staff, the parents/carers of flexi-schooled pupils are fully responsible for their child or children when they are educated at home (or at their chosen offsite venue), even when completing assigned work suggested by school.



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Liability

For activities beyond the sole care and charge of school staff, the parents/carers of flexi-schooled pupils are fully responsible for their child or children when they are educated at home (or at their chosen offsite venue) and is covered by the use of the C Code when marking the Attendance Register. Activities/visits arranged by parents/carers in the same vein are also covered by the same parental responsibility (please see our Flexi-school Memorandum of Understanding).

Safeguarding and Child Protection

As with all children, we have a statutory duty to inform Child Protection and Safeguarding agencies if any child presents with unusual injuries or discloses an information that requires their involvement; and then to cooperate fully with any investigations, or follow up actions they deem necessary. This is coordinated by our Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL.

Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Flexi-schooling (MoU)

Parents choosing to Flexi-school their child or children are required to sign our Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Flexi-schooling (MoU). This document sets out the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in educating their children. It also focuses on the school's responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection (Please read in conjunction with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).

Parents need to be aware that by choosing to Flexi-school their child or children, that they are therefore accepting that they alone are responsible for any future legal redress their child or children may seek.

The MoU also indicates the attendance requirement of the three (3) core days, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. These days/attendance patterns are not negotiable.

A Flexi-school place is offered in the same manner as those for Full-time children, so both Monday and Friday are available in addition to the core days if parents and their children wish.

It is extremely important for the parents to be able to share samples of work carried out at home and the Memorandum of Understanding reflects this.

To ensure that effective integration takes place we require all Flexi-schooled children to wear the school uniform as worn by all the other children.

Our eLearning products can allow children to;

- Be offered additional tasks

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- Play interactive games that give the school feedback on their progress across a range of subjects, including Mathematics, Literacy and coding

In addition to the above, we will also offer Education Workshops to share experience and develop new ideas.

We strongly recommend that parents considering Flexi-schooling review and develop an understanding of how our school operates and delivers our offer to them on behalf of their child or children.

Monitoring and review

We are aware of the need to review our flexi-schooling policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology, or changes to the physical environment of the school.

Implementation of this procedure/policy

We aim to manage the implementation of this procedure/policy with the support and guidance of any relevant body and will be subject to review if legislation dictate



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