



The Edge Schools' Federation

Flexi-Schooling Policy

At the Edge Schools' Federation, we recognise the right of parents to choose a suitable way of complying with the legal duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age receives efficient full-time education suitable to a) their age, ability and aptitude, and b) to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (Section 7 Education Act 1996).

For most children, full-time attendance at school is the most appropriate way to ensure that they receive the full-time education required by law. However, we welcome all children to our federation irrespective of need, background or belief, and we believe that flexi-schooling can be beneficial for some children and families. Our flexi-school provision is predominantly aimed at children who are, or have been, ELECTIVELY HOME EDUCATED (EHE).

Please be aware that schools do not have to provide flexi-schooling by law but at the Edge Schools' Federation we feel that every child should have access to education and be supported with their social, emotional, physical and mental needs in a way that suits them. This may mean, for some children, that they do not attend school-based provision on a full-time basis.

Flexi-schooling will be available on a trial basis at our Wistanstow and Church Preen settings from September 2023. Places available for flexi-schooling will be limited at each school.

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 "Core Days" every week (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday). The rest of the time the child is home educated (on authorised absence from school). This arrangement is open-ended but children in Year 6 are required to attend school full-time in preparation for the transition to secondary school. Flexi-school pupils are also very welcome to attend other school sessions, events and activities *in addition* to their core days.

Flexi-schooling is a legal option provided that the Headteacher agrees to the arrangement. All flexi-school agreements are also referred to The Edge Schools' Federation governors and are monitored on behalf of the federation governors by a link governor. Flexi-school agreements may be revoked by the school at any time should the Headteacher feel that the arrangement is not benefiting the child.

The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum whilst at school but not whilst they are being educated at home. There is no statutory curriculum for the home education element of our flexi-schooling arrangement. All teaching and learning offered on the core days reflects our curriculum policies as offered to children who attend on a full-time basis. This policy and our other school policies do not seek to prescribe how children should be taught for the home education element of the flexi-schooling arrangement.

Our principles of flexi-schooling

Flexi-schooling is a process of co-operative teamwork, within which we welcome and encourage the involvement of parents in the education of their children. Within our flexi-schooling offer we:

- treat all children fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities;
- treat all children with kindness and respect;
- praise all children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards our Federation and learning in general;
- apply our Federation policies with regard to pupil behaviour, discipline and classroom management;
- conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

Our Federation aims

Being a small rural federation affords us the ability to offer some opportunities not readily offered elsewhere – flexi-schooling is one such that can work well in our unique small school 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.

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 are able to make progress with access to any level of education irrespective of their age.

We offer all of our pupils:

- a more flexible approach to education that encompasses and supports all children
- access to a happy, stimulating, secure and safe environment that offers all children an equal opportunity to develop their abilities and personalities and helps 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
- welfare checks to ensure all safeguarding needs are being met

How will flexi-schooling work?

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. No flexi-schooling agreement will be set up without this initial meeting having taken place. A flexi-school agreement must be completed and signed by parents / carers and the Headteacher / Head of School prior to any flexi-school attendance patterns commencing.

Our timetable is organised so that children who are flexi-schooled can continue with follow-up work from their core days during their flexi-schooled days if they wish. We are keen to work in partnership with parents and carers who are undertaking flexi-schooling, and the school will provide outline plans of what is being taught in school each week to assist parents/carers in understanding what curriculum provision will be made for full-time pupils. However, school staff will not provide detailed planning, resources or activities for flexi-schooling days when children are not in school. The school will not provide “catch-up” sessions or activities for curriculum work which flexi-schooled children have missed on their flexi-schooled days.

The attendance Code C (*special circumstances not covered elsewhere*) will be used for days when children who attend our school are being schooled at home under a flexi-school agreement. Children who attend school in person on any given day/session will receive the normal attendance mark and teaching that is specific to their needs and reflects the expectations of the National Curriculum.

A meeting between the school and parents/carers will be held every half term to assess and review the pupil's academic attainment and progress and social, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a review of the operation of the flexi-school agreement. The meeting in the second half of each term will include a discussion of the pupil's attainment in termly formal assessments in reading, writing, mathematics and grammar, punctuation and spelling (undertaken by all pupils).

Safeguarding and child protection

If a child is accepted to attend on a flexi-school basis, parents need to be aware that they are fully responsible for the Shropshire Council Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures relating to their child when not in school and being Electively Home Educated (EHE). This extends to education provided by any third party arranged by the parent/carer/responsible adult. More information on this can be found [here](#).

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Next policy review July 2024