

Lord Deramore's Primary School

Flexi- schooling Policy

COMPLIANCE

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended)
- The Education Act 1996
- DfE (2019) 'Elective home education'
- DfE (2020) 'School attendance'
- CYC Elective Home Education Policy and Procedures September 2021

LINKED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Inclusion Policy
- SEND Information Report
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education

October 2022
Approved FGB October 2022
Review Date: 2024

BACKGROUND

At Lord Deramore's we appreciate the value home/school learning partnerships. Our child and family centred ethos, and inclusive approach puts the concerns and wishes of parents/carers at the heart of our planning for those children and families who may benefit from a more individually tailored approach to their education. In **exceptional circumstances**, this may include entering into a flexi-schooling arrangement

Flexi-schooling is an arrangement whereby a parent/carer chooses to educate a child partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere. It must not be confused with elective home education. Parents/carers have a legal right to choose to home educate their child but **parents/carers do not have a legal right to insist on a flexi- schooling arrangement.**

In order for our school to enter into and continue a flexi-schooling arrangement parents and carers must accept and operate within the framework and conditions reflected within this policy and informed by the Department for Education's "Elective Home Education: Guidelines for Local Authorities" April 2019 in particular paragraph 1.3:

1.3 Although children being home-educated are not normally registered at any school, parents sometimes choose to make arrangements for a child to receive part of the total provision at a school - the purpose of this will often be to provide education in specific subjects more easily than is possible at home. Such arrangements are sometimes known as 'flexi-schooling'. Schools are under no obligation to agree to such arrangements, but some are happy to do so. When a child is flexi-schooled, the parents must still ensure that the child receives a suitable full-time education but the element received at school must be taken into account in considering whether that duty is met, just as it should be when a child attends other settings on a part-time basis as described above. Bearing that in mind, this guidance applies as much to children who are flexi-schooled as it does to others who are educated at home.

FLEXI-SCHOOLING AT LORD DERAMORE'S - CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS

- The initial request for flexi-schooling must emanate from the parent/carer. The school will not suggest or encourage a family to undertake flexi-schooling
- A parent/carer 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, or for an extended period if they believe this approach to be beneficial to their child
- requests for a flexi-schooling arrangement, should be made directly to the head teacher and must include a written proposal explaining the reasoning behind the request and information as to the nature of education which will be provided by the parent(s)/carer(s)

- Each application for flexi-schooling will be considered on its own merits, balancing out the needs of the child emotionally, socially and educationally
- Unless there are exceptional medical or emotional reasons which have resulted in a high level of absence, a child's attendance should be above National Averages of 95%
- Except in the case of an identified SEN (Special Educational Need), a child's attainment should be at or above age related expectations although 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 is limited to one day per week. Unless there is a specific reason for it to be otherwise, this would be a Friday so that our whole school timetable can be managed such that flexi-schooled children don't miss out on trips, visitors or any specific new learning.
- The decision to agree to a flexi-schooling arrangement is entirely at the discretion of the head teacher acting with the authority of the governing body
- Each agreement between the head teacher and parent is made on a half termly basis (broadly six weeks) when a review meeting will be held to decide whether to continue the flexi-schooling agreement
- Once a parent has agreed to flexi-schooling they are committed to the entire half term
- On application for an initial admission, the head teacher reserves the right to decline a request for a flex- schooling place. Grounds for declining a place could be that adding to the amount of children attending on a flexi-basis would be detrimental to the learning and outcomes of other children already within the class in question. In such circumstances, a full time place will be offered if available in the class in question
- There is no procedure for appeal against the decision of the head teacher not to agree to initiate or renew an individual's flexi - schooling arrangement.
- The governing body may be involved in agreeing and reviewing the school's approach to flexi-schooling requests but they will not become involved in individual cases
- Governors may have a more formal role if a dispute arises and/or a complaint regarding Flexi-schooling provision is made in which case, Governors must satisfy themselves that the head teacher has fully considered the conditions for agreeing a flexi-schooling agreement and be fully conversant with the school attendance statutory guidance when reaching a decision.

SAFEGUARDING

- Safeguarding and welfare of all children on role is of paramount importance and school is responsible for the safeguarding, and welfare of pupils educated off site by another provider. Therefore, in cases where it is agreed that the child will routinely access an approved off-site educational activity on the day they are not in school an appropriate, quality assured risk assessment must be undertaken in advance of any agreement made
- It is acceptable in law to assume that a child is safe with his own parents unless there is evidence to the contrary. Therefore, if the child is being educated at home by, or in the presence of their parents, risk and or safety assessments of the home are not required.
- No agreement will be reached or maintained where the head teacher has concerns that the child would be at risk of harm while not attending school. .

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARENTS

- As stated in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, the education provided at home and at school must together constitute a full-time provision - "The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable – (a) to his age, ability and aptitude, and (b) to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."
- 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.
- 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 National Curriculum/EYFS Curriculum and the possible fragmentation of the child's learning experience.
- Flexi-schooling should be a positive choice with the expectation that home and school will develop a strong and reciprocal partnership centred around the best interests of the child
- Flexi-schooling arrangements should not be undertaken and are unlikely to succeed if the choice is motivated by negatives such as avoiding difficulties around certain subjects, relationships with staff and peers, aspects of discipline or attendance itself. Where such

issues arise the school will endeavour to work flexibly with parents to resolve difficulties within the normal full time attendance model

- Impartial information about the pros and cons of flexi –schooling can be found at <https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-flexi-schooling>

ATTENDANCE CODES FOR FLEXI-EDUCATION

- A child who is educated at home on agreed days will be marked as a Code C in the attendance register i.e. leave of absence authorised by the school Only exceptional circumstances warrant an authorised leave of absence. Schools should consider each application individually taking into account the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind the request.
- In cases where it is agreed that a child will routinely access an approved off-site educational activity on the day they are not in school a Code B will be used i.e. present at an off-site educational activity that has been approved by the school.

APPENDIX 1 - Lord Deramore's Flexi-schooling Contract

Lord Deramore's Flexi-schooling Contract for Provision of Education – Part 1 School	
Part 1- School	
Child's name:	
Name of parents/carers:	
<p>Lord Deramore's 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.</p> <p>The educational provision will be suitable to the age, aptitude and ability of as set out in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.</p> <p>Whilst is on school premises or the School is acting in loco parentis the school will maintain primary responsibility for safety and welfare.</p> <p>The school and parent/carer will meet every half term for a review meeting to discuss progress and review the attendance agreement.</p> <p>The school can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing.</p>	
Head Teacher:	Date:
Part 2 – Parent (s)/carer(s)	
<p>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.</p> <p>The educational provision will be suitable to age, aptitude and ability ofas set out in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 and will be as described in our flexi-schooling written request.</p> <p>During school hours timetabled for home-based education I/we will maintain primary responsibility for the safety and welfare of</p> <p>I/we understand I can withdraw from this agreement at any time by giving reasonable notice in writing</p>	
Parent(s)/carer(s):	Date:

Appendix 2 – Attendance Agreement and Timetable

Flexi-schooling: Attendance Agreement		
Child's name:		
Name of parents/carers:		
Agreed Timetable		
Day	AM	PM
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Head Teacher:	Date:	
Parent(s)/carer(s):	Date:	