

Dallington School Flexi-Schooling Policy



	Name	Date
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Checked and Reviewed by:		
Ratified by Board of Governors:		
Next School Review:		

Dallington School Flexi-Schooling Policy

1. Introduction

At Dallington School, we recognise and support, where practical and acceptable, the right of parents to choose a personalised education for their child that aligns with the child's needs, dispositions, and family values. Flexi-schooling provides a unique opportunity to blend school-based and home education to offer a flexible and bespoke learning experience.

This arrangement is particularly suited for:

- Children who are, or have been, Electively Home Educated (EHE).
- Children who find formal education challenging and may be at risk of school refusal.
- Children with specific talents or interests that require more time outside school.

Flexi-schooling is a discretionary arrangement offered solely at the Head's discretion. It is not a statutory entitlement and schools are not required by law to offer it. There are no rights of appeal if a request is declined.

Please Note: Flexi-schooling will not be considered for children who have been excluded or expelled.

2. What is Flexi-Schooling?

Flexi-schooling is a hybrid educational model where a child is registered at school and attends for a minimum of two core days per week. On the remaining days, the child is educated at home under a plan devised by the family and agreed upon with the school. This model allows for a personalised, flexible approach while ensuring the child remains in full-time education under DfE definitions.

Each agreement is tailored to the individual child and family. While at school, children are expected to follow the curriculum. There is no requirement for the home education component to align with the school's curriculum, but it must meet the standards agreed upon in the flexi-schooling plan.

3. Key Principles

- **Need-Based Organisation:** School structure is based on identified needs - individualised plans, flexible scheduling, resource allocation (including staff), parental involvement and adaptability.
- **Learner-Centric Approach:** The school will ensure no negative impact on full-time children and will cater to all learners' needs.
- **Supportive Environment:** The school will foster mutual support, social experiences, and dynamic learning for all children.
- **Parental Responsibility:** As outlined by the Education Act and DfE, parents are ultimately responsible for their child's education, regardless of whether it takes place at school or home.

'Where parents choose not to have their child educated by full-time attendance at school, then they are responsible for the whole of their child's education.' DfE 2018.

4. Objectives

- To offer an adaptable schooling model to meet the diverse needs of today's children and their families.
- To support families in creating a conducive home learning environment.
- To ensure high standards of education and continuous academic progress.

5. Eligibility Criteria

- The child must not have been excluded or expelled from a previous school.
- Parents must demonstrate how home education will effectively complement school learning.
- Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

6. Application Process

- Submit a formal written request to the Head using the Flexi-School Application Form.
- Include the rationale for the request and a proposed home education plan.
- A meeting will be arranged with the Head, parents, and relevant staff to discuss the request.
- We require that children attend a series of taster sessions before a final offer of enrolment is made. This approach allows parents and the School to collaboratively assess whether a Flexi-schooling approach will be beneficial for the child. This ensures that the educational environment is well-suited to the child's needs and supports their learning effectively. It is the School's final decision whether an offer is made.

7. Agreement and Documentation

A formal agreement will outline the following:

- **Responsibilities of both school and parents:** Clearly setting out what each party is responsible for in the flexi-schooling arrangement.
- **Attendance expectations:** The specific core days a child will attend school are agreed at the start of each term and cannot be changed or swapped during that term. Attendance for these days will be treated as detailed in the school's Attendance Policy. The school will use attendance code C for authorised absence on home-education days, as per DfE guidance ("special circumstances not covered elsewhere").
- **Curriculum coverage:** Detailing how the curriculum will be delivered across both school and home days, to ensure all statutory requirements are met.

- **Methods of assessment and communication:** Explaining how progress will be monitored and how regular communication between school and parents/carers will be maintained.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

- **School:** Provide structured learning during school attendance, monitor progress, and maintain communication.
- **Parents:** Implement the home learning plan and ensure a suitable learning environment.
- **Child:** Engage actively in both school and home-based education.

9. Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is central to all decisions at Dallington School. Flexi-schooling arrangements must not compromise our safeguarding responsibilities under statutory guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSIE) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.

Safeguarding Requirements:

- The school is responsible for safeguarding children during school hours.
- Parents are responsible for safeguarding during home-based learning.
- Parents must commit to regular communication with the school and provide updates on the child's welfare and progress during home learning.
- Any safeguarding concern, whether arising during school or home time, must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- The home education environment should be safe, suitable, and supportive of the child's learning and well-being.
- The school may request evidence of learning or conduct home visits if safeguarding concerns arise.

Should safeguarding issues emerge, the flexi-schooling arrangement may be reviewed or terminated immediately.

10. Monitoring and Review

- Flexi-schooling arrangements will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain effective and beneficial for the children.
- Any changes to the arrangement must be agreed upon by both the school and parents.

11. Complaints and Appeals

- Parents may appeal decisions related to flexi-schooling arrangements following the school's standard complaints procedure.

12. Policy Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

13. Terms and Conditions

- Please note, all terms and conditions set out in the school's main Terms and Conditions document (available on the school website and from the school office) apply in full to flexi-school children, including the requirement to give one term's notice if you wish to withdraw your child. We expect the same level of commitment as for full-time children, as this is in the best interests of each child. However, in extra special circumstances, if the flexi-school arrangement is found to be detrimental to a child's progress, the school may, at their discretion, waive the notice period.