

**HOMEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL & SSC**  
**Aiming high together**



**FLEXI SCHOOLING/FLEXI  
ATTENDANCE POLICY  
(Non-Statutory)**

**Reviewer: Diane South**  
**Reviewed and approved by Full Governors:**  
**Adopted by Governors on: 27/06/2024**  
**Next Update: 27/06/2027**



# HOMEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL & SSC

## Aiming high together

### FLEXI SCHOOLING/FLEXI ATTENDANCE POLICY

#### **Homefield Primary School has 5 Core values:**

- Respect
- Belonging
- Resilience
- Creativity
- Responsibility

At Homefield Primary School and SSC we offer an inclusive learning environment where there is a strong emphasis on parent/carer partnerships. Children are taught to work and learn co-operatively, have respect for each other and their environment within an ethos of high expectation and aspirations.

#### **Background to Flexi Schooling**

In April 2019 the DfE issued “Elective Home Education – Departmental Guidance for Local Authorities”. This refers to the term Flexi Schooling in the following paragraphs:

“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.

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. If the child attends state-funded school or FE

college for part of the week, that will have no cost to the parents. Examination costs are also the responsibility of parents if a child does not attend school full-time, although some schools or colleges attended part time may meet the costs, or the local authority may have a policy of assisting with such costs for children educated at home.”

*The responsibility for flexi schooling lies with the school and not the local authority. Our Governing Body has adopted this general approach and states that each request will be considered individually and on its own circumstances. Where there is a complex case two representatives from the Governing body may be asked to consider a request alongside the Head Teacher and the Assistant Headteacher responsible for attendance.*

**As a school, we follow the West Sussex information and Guidance on Flexi-Schooling provided by the Education and Skills Pupil Entitlement Investigation Team.**

### **Flexi-schooling**

Flexi Schooling is:

- An arrangement for providing a full-time education to a child whereby the child attends school part of the time and is educated elsewhere, usually by the parent, for the rest of the time. There is no predetermined model and individual arrangements may vary.
- Not the same as home schooling/Elective Home Education. Flexi attendance must have an agreed pattern
- Different from temporary part-time attendance arrangements. These are monitored and reviewed with the intention that the child will return to full-time attendance.
- Not an automatic right. It is at the school’s discretion. There is no right of appeal.

“Schools are not obliged to accept such arrangements if requested by parents. If they do, then time spent by children being educated at home should be authorised as absence in the usual way and marked in attendance registers accordingly.” (April 2019 Dfe

### **Parent/carers:**

- The responsibility to ensure that a child receives full-time education whilst he or she is of statutory school age lies with the parent/carer.
- Some parents/carers may decide to provide a suitable full-time education by educating their child at home, rather than seeking to enrol their child at school. This is called home schooling or Elective Home Education and is not the same as Flexi-schooling.
- Only a parent with parental responsibility can request a flexi-schooling arrangement. The request/proposal will need to prove that it is the best interests of the child and outline how the proposal could work.
- Cannot use it as an opt out of particular subjects or elements of a curriculum.

### **The School:**

- Homefield Primary school will consider each proposal individually. The Governing Body cannot overturn a Headteacher's decision but will have a clearly defined role if a complaint is made.
- The responsibility for flexi schooling lies with the school and not the local authority. Schools are under no obligation to offer Flexi Schooling as an option to parent/carers. Flexi schooling will only be adopted in exceptional circumstances where a child needs to be absent from full time schooling for a specific reason ie sports training, theatre work, returning after a long-term illness or trauma. This is different from children being offered a part time timetable as part of a managed strategy ie where a child has a specific need.
- This policy must not be used to put young people on a part timetable due to disruptive or challenging behaviours.
- Where Flexi-schooling is granted, the school will share its curriculum so that parent/carers can support their child's learning.
- Where a child has an EHCP, the decision must be made in conjunction with the Local Authority.

### **Homefield Primary school and SSC believes:**

- That its inclusive ethos can accommodate most learners
- That children within its community benefit from attending school full time so that they can make the most of its broad and creative curriculum. A curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of its learners.
- It can work with parent/carers in addressing their own concerns and needs
- That it can meet the needs of all learners in terms of exploring their potential
- That it offers support to parents/carers in terms of supporting their child both academically and socially (a holistic approach)
- That it gives children great opportunities to acquire new knowledge and skills and allows children to apply these skills in a variety of ways, preparing them for life.
- That all staff at Homefield work very hard for all children in school and that the creation of extra work for staff should only be done under 'exceptional' circumstances, to the benefit of the child.
- That it works hard to raise standards and levels of achievement and this is best done within its school community
- That the school continues to work hard to improve its levels of attendance and that allocation of school places should go to those children within its community who will benefit from attending a local school full time.
- That we teach skills for life – attendance, punctuality, resilience. tolerance, friendship and community living

- That safeguarding of any child should always be of paramount importance, so any decisions should be taken with the knowledge of any existing safeguarding concerns

### **If Flexi schooling is agreed (Exceptional circumstances)**

The school will work hard to maintain a smooth transition between education at home and education at school so that the child remains happy, supported and challenged.

If it appears that parent/carers are not providing a suitable education as agreed between the school and the parent, the school may ask the parent to take remedial action. If the parent/carer declines to do so, or the school is still concerned about the provision of education at home, the school may withdraw its agreement to the flexi schooling arrangement. The child would then be required to attend at school on a full- time basis.

The school will have a formal written agreement with the parents/carers about the flexi schooling arrangements so that expectations and understandings are clear for both parties. Such an agreement might include sections on:

- The pattern of attendance - what days/sessions the child will attend school
- The rationale for why flexi-schooling is in the best interests of the pupil concerned.
- Flexibility – arrangements about activities that might fall outside of the arrangement including any Statutory Assessments/assessments
- How absences will be monitored and recorded or special events attended
- Details of any special educational needs and children with a statement of Special Educational Need (EHCP) will have their statement reviewed annually, or sooner if appropriate
- An agreement that if parent/carers choose to employ other adults to educate at home, they are responsible for making sure they are suitable to work with children and are responsible for all costs
- Recommended planning/review meetings
- Arrangements for an exit strategy
- How disputes will be resolved
- Children with a statement of Special Educational Need (EHCP) will have their statement reviewed annually, or sooner if appropriate

Further information and guidance can be found on the DFE and West Sussex websites.