Waddington and West Bradford CE Primary School

Flexi-Schooling Policy 2026

1. Introduction

Waddington and West Bradford CE Primary School recognises that parents/carers have a legal duty to ensure their child receives an appropriate full-time education. While most pupils attend school full-time, the school acknowledges that a small number of families may wish to combine school attendance with home-based education. This arrangement is known as flexi-schooling.

Flexi-schooling is not an entitlement; it is a discretionary arrangement agreed between the Headteacher and the parent/carer.

2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide a clear framework for considering flexi-schooling requests
- Ensure pupils receive a suitable and full education
- Safeguard the welfare and educational progress of all pupils
- Maintain effective partnership working with parents/carers

3. Definition of Flexi-Schooling

Flexi-schooling is an arrangement where:

- A child is registered at Waddington and West Bradford CE Primary but attends on a part-time basis
- The remainder of the child's education is provided by the parent/carer at home
- The child remains on the school roll

Flexi-schooling is distinct from elective home education (EHE), where a child is removed from the school roll.

4. Legal Framework

- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child receives a suitable education (Education Act 1996, Section 7).

- Schools are responsible for recording attendance accurately.
- The Headteacher has discretion to approve or refuse flexi-schooling requests.

5. Principles

When considering requests, the school will prioritise:

- The best interests of the child
- Educational continuity and progress
- Safeguarding and welfare considerations
- Impact on the school community and resources

6. Application Process

Parents/carers wishing to request flexi-schooling must:

1. Submit a written application to the Headteacher including:
    - Reasons for the request
    - Proposed timetable of attendance
    - Outline of home education provision
2. Attend a meeting with the Headteacher (and/or relevant staff)
3. Agree to:
    - Provide evidence of home education plans
    - Maintain regular communication with the school

The Headteacher will:

- Review the application
- Consider the child's needs, academic progress, and wellbeing
- Consult with relevant staff where appropriate

A decision will be provided in writing within 15 school days.

7. Decision-Making Criteria

Requests will be considered based on:

- The child's age, stage, and needs
- The feasibility and quality of proposed home education
- Safeguarding considerations
- Attendance history
- Impact on curriculum delivery and assessment
- Previous patterns of engagement

The school may refuse requests where:

- It is not in the child's best interests
- Safeguarding concerns exist
- The arrangement would significantly disrupt learning

8. Attendance and Registration

- The child will be registered as attending school part-time
- Sessions not attended due to flexi-schooling will be recorded as authorised absence (Code C)
- Unauthorised absence procedures will apply where appropriate

9. Curriculum and Learning Responsibilities

School Responsibilities

The school will:

- Provide education during the agreed attendance times
- Monitor progress in school-based subjects
- Share relevant curriculum information with parents/carers

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents/carers must:

- Provide suitable education during home-based periods
- Ensure continuity of learning
- Not expect the school to provide detailed planning for home education
- Support completion of key assessments where required

10. Assessment and Progress

- The school will assess progress based on work completed in school
- Participation in statutory assessments (e.g. SATs) is expected, unless otherwise agreed
- Parents may be asked to provide evidence of learning at home

11. Safeguarding

- The child remains on roll; therefore, safeguarding responsibilities continue
- Concerns regarding welfare may result in:
    - Review or withdrawal of the arrangement
    - Referral to appropriate services in line with safeguarding procedures

12. Review of Arrangement

Flexi-schooling agreements will:

- Be reviewed at least termly
- Include discussion of:
    - Academic progress
    - Wellbeing
    - Attendance

The arrangement may be:

- Continued
- Amended
- Withdrawn (with notice)

13. Termination of Agreement

The flexi-schooling agreement may be ended if:

- The arrangement is no longer in the child's best interest
- There is insufficient evidence of suitable home education
- Safeguarding concerns arise

- Attendance expectations are not met

Parents may also request a return to full-time schooling at any point.

14. Equality and Inclusion

The school will consider all requests fairly and equitably, ensuring that:

- No group is disadvantaged
- Decisions are based on individual circumstances

15. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Makes final decisions on applications
- Ensures compliance with regulations
- Monitors implementation

Governing Body

- Reviews and approves the policy
- Ensures accountability

Parents/Carers

- Provide suitable home education
- Maintain communication with the school

16. Monitoring and Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 2-3 years or sooner if required by changes in legislation or local authority guidance.

Waddington and West Bradford CE Primary School

Flexi-Schooling Agreement

Pupil Name:

Year Group:

Flexi-School Start Date:

Attendance Pattern:

Home Education Overview:

Review Dates:

Signatures

Parent(s) Date:

Headteacher Date: