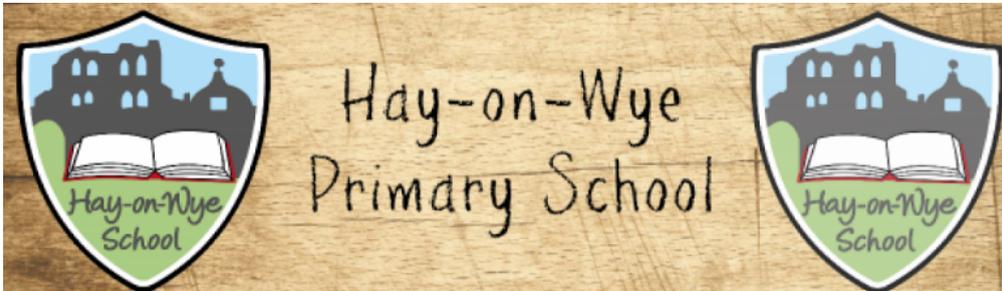


# Ysgol y Gelli Gandryll



“Dysgu, Cyflawni a Gofalu ar y Cyd”

“Learning, Achieving & Caring Together”

## Hay-on-Wye CP School Flexi-Schooling Policy

*(to be read in conjunction with the Flexi-Schooling Application, Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding)*

Signed .....Date .....  
(Chair of Governors)

Signed .....Date.....  
(Headteacher)

Hay-on-Wye C P School recognizes that valuable learning can also occur outside the school environment. One way in which this might occur is through a Flexi- schooling arrangement where statutory education can be delivered part-time at home.

Benefits from a Flexi-school arrangement might include:

- helping children to adjust to and transition into the school environment when starting school;
- learning through activities eg., cooking (weighing, measuring, reading recipes, predicting outcomes);
- pursuing your child's interests that are not easily fulfilled or available in school;
- supporting children who have previously home schooled back into a school environment;
- recognizing the individual needs of children;
- ability to pursue current topic and learning in greater depth or with the lead of the child;
- checking understanding gained at school;
- deepening understanding of how children learn;
- forming a cooperative relationship with the school for the education of a child.

In order for our school to enter into and continue a Flexi-schooling arrangement, parents and carers must accept the clear and robust framework of expectations set out within this policy. The Flexi-Schooling Application, Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding must also be read and signed.

## **Background**

Where a parent/ carer educates a child >5years old partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called Flexi-schooling.

There is no statutory curriculum for the home education element of our flexi-schooling arrangement. Nonetheless, we promote without pressure, the opportunities the partnership flexi-schooling brings – and from that, we hope that this partnership will develop in a manner that is mutually beneficial to all parties.

Flexi-schooling 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 being agreed by the school.

Whilst a parent/ carer may request that their child is Flexi-schooled it is entirely at the discretion of the Head teacher, acting with the authority of the governing body, as to whether or not the school is prepared to agree to a Flexi-schooling arrangement.

If a parent/ carer is interested in making a request for a Flexi-schooling arrangement, contact must be made directly with the Head teacher so that the proposal may be considered.

Requests can be made by parents/ carers of current and prospective pupils. Each proposal will be considered on its own merits and within its individual context.

### **What should parents/ carers consider?**

The implications of making partial educational provision at home are significant in terms of the commitment to make a shared provision work well for the child(ren).

The education provided at home and at school must together constitute a full-time provision. Parents/ carers should be mindful of the possible fragmentation of the child's learning and social experience, with that of their full-time peers.

Flexi-schooling is unlikely to succeed if the reasons for choosing it are negative and the choice is motivated by a desire to 'cherry pick' certain activities only or aimed at avoiding difficulties around certain subjects, teachers, peers, aspects of school discipline or attendance itself. Flexi-schooling does not give an alternative means of opting out of an element of the curriculum with which a child, for whatever reason, is uncomfortable. The school would expect to engage actively in attempting to resolve these difficulties.

The school has a wholly inclusive approach to education and strives hard to work with the wishes and choices of all parents. The school expects parents of Flexi-schooled children to uphold the school's ethos, values, policies and practice. Strong and reciprocal partnership between home and school is key to a successful and sustainable Flexi-schooling arrangement.

### **Considerations following Flexi-school requests**

Considerations that the head teacher will make when deciding whether to agree to a Flexi-schooling arrangement:

- All applications will be judged on their own merit.
- The grounds for agreeing a Flexi-schooling place will always be at the discretion of the head teacher.
- No agreement will be reached or maintained where our Head teacher has concern that it would put the child at risk of harm while not attending at our school. Therefore, when agreeing to Flexi-schooling arrangement our school is ensuring with the parent that the education is supervised and all reasonable and appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard pupils.
- On application for an initial admission the head teacher reserves the right to decline a request for a flexi-schooling place.
- Grounds for declining a place could be that adding to the number of children attending on a flexi-basis would create an imbalance and be detrimental to teaching, learning and the outcomes of other children already within the class in question. In such circumstances a full-time place will be offered on proviso that a place is available within the class.



- Current and anticipated level of educational development, achievement and progress of the individual pupil and the arrangements for monitoring the learning and progress of the individual pupil will be carefully considered.
- The appropriateness of the environment proposed and maintained by the parents/carers away from the school will be discussed.
- Flexi-schooling education provided at home and that provided at school must together constitute a full-time education provision.
- The effect on school discipline and the morale and motivation of other children on roll at the school.
- The effect on the school as a learning organisation.
- The effect on school resources.
- The impact on overall school attainment, given that attendance data will be affected, as whilst flexi-schooling will be currently marked as an 'authorised' absence ('C' on the school register), it will nevertheless be an absence from school and noted in WG data.

### **Flexi-school Admissions Criteria**

In order to avoid creating an imbalance which would be detrimental to the teaching of the non-flexi school children in the class, flexi school places will be limited to no more than 50% of the year group in the first instance.

Flexi-school days are on either Thursday and/or Friday for two days a week. If flexi schooling is wanted for only one day a week, this will be on a Friday.

The criteria for allocating flexi-school places are as follows in order of priority:

1. Exceptional circumstances e.g. children with exceptional medical, social or compassionate grounds (at the discretion of the Headteacher and governors)
2. Siblings of children already flexi-schooling.
3. Children's names will be taken out of a hat to ensure fairness, with 50% being the limit.

### **Procedure for new Reception children applying for a Flexi-school place**

- An admission application for a school place must be completed in the normal way and submitted to Powys County Council by the deadline date (usually around the end of January each year).
- Once a school place is confirmed, parents may apply for an opportunity for a flexi-school place.
- If a flexi-school place is requested, parents/carers should return their application by the date indicated on the letter and places will be allocated according to the above criteria by 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### **The Role of the Governing Body of a School**

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.

Governors must satisfy themselves that the Head teacher has fully considered the conditions for agreeing a Flexi-schooling agreement and that they are fully conversant with the school attendance statutory guidance when reaching a decision.

Governors will also monitor wellbeing and development of skills of flexi-schooled children to ensure that good progress is being made. This will be reviewed regularly through reports to the Governing Body by the head teacher.

### **Appeals**

There is no appeal against the decision of the Head teacher not to agree to a Flexi-schooling request or if our head teacher decides to cease an individual child's Flexi-schooling arrangement.

### **Our agreement with parents**

A written and signed agreement is formulated between the school and parent/ carer, in order to make expectations clear for all concerned. The agreement is formalised in line with the school's Flexi-schooling policy and will include:

- The expected pattern of attendance at school. Currently a child can be flexi-schooled on a Thursday and a Friday, or only on a Friday, or a Thursday and / or Friday afternoon.
- The flexi school arrangement will be reviewed after one term, to confirm that both parties are happy with the agreement; both parties reserve the right to withdraw from the agreement at this time.
- Flexibility regarding attendance for special events which fall outside of the normal arrangement such as, but not limited to, assemblies, school trips, school productions or performances, sports events, visitors to the school.
- Flexi-schooled children may attend school on days usually reserved for flexi-schooling.
- Registration. In accordance with current Welsh Government rules, flexi-schooling days will be noted with a code C, which means an authorized absence.
- That the parents/ carers must contact the school if the child is absent from a session during which they would normally be flexi-schooled (e.g. if they are unwell). This enables the school to correctly code the absence for that session.
- That the school will follow up any unexpected or unexplained absence as it would for other children.



- On days when the pupil does not attend school, they are not expected to undertake formal lessons but activities from any of the 6 Areas of Learning in the Curriculum for Wales may be undertaken from a half termly planning sheet on a given theme or topic and shared with all parents by the class teacher. Please see link below with information for parents on curriculum for Wales:-<https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/4e66c555-73aa-44ee-93e5-1e612906f1d2/220208-parents-carers.pdf>
- The school will monitor the progress of all Flexi-schooled children at an individual level and reserve the right to withdraw the arrangement if the child's progress is adversely affected by the flexi schooling arrangement.
- Assessment. Flexi-schooled children will be assessed along with their peers at progression reference points within the new curriculum for Wales at ages 5, 8, 11 in primary schools (and at 14 and 16 years in secondary schools), at outcomes which describe expected achievements at each progression reference point.
- Parents/ carers choosing to employ at their own expense another person to educate the child at home and that the parents/carer will be responsible for ensuring that person is suitable to have access to the child.
- Any perceived additional educational needs and associated provision will be clearly discussed and supported by the school. For children who have additional educational needs, the regular review of each Flexi-schooling agreement will include consideration of whether Flexi-schooling will continue to meet the child's individual education needs.
- Recommended regular meetings between parent/carer and school to ensure the child achieves his or her potential and to promote good home-school relationships.
- Under what circumstances and with what notice either party can withdraw from the arrangement.

### **Children with a Statement of Additional Learning Needs**

There is no distinction between children who are to be Flexi-schooled and those who are not.

The duty to review a child's ALN plan on a termly or an annual basis (or sooner if appropriate), still applies.

### **Funding**

The child will be recorded by the school as attending full-time with sessions not in school being recorded as per agreement. Therefore, the school will receive full-time funding.

Flexi-schooled children are included in census count returns as for other children.

### **Admissions**

There is no distinction between children who are Flexi-schooled and those who are not. Whatever the degree of attendance, the child will count towards admissions numbers onroll as full-time.

### **Foundation Phase Class Size Legislation (FPCSL)**

Our school makes no distinction between children who are to be Flexi-schooled and those who are not. Whatever the degree of attendance, a child will not be an exception to FPCSL solely by being Flexi-schooled.

### **Insurance**

There is no distinction between children who are to be Flexi-schooled and those who are not.

### **Children Educated outside their Chronological Age-Group**

There is no distinction between children who are to be Flexi-schooled and those who are not.

### **When the education being provided at home is not suitable**

If it appears to our school that parents/carers are not providing a suitable education or not working with the school to uphold its values, policies and practices as agreed between the school and the parent/carer; the school may ask the parent/carer to take remedial action.

If the parent/carer declines to do so or the school is still concerned about the provision of the education at home or adherence to the Flexi-schooling agreement, the school may withdraw its agreement. The child would then be required to attend at school on a full-time basis.

If a child fails to return to full-time attendance our school will record the absence unauthorised and refer the case to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) in line with school and County procedures.

### **Policy updates**

The flexi-school policy will be reviewed annually in the summer term.





