

## Flexischooling: England

Regulations and guidance cited in this section are limited in scope and apply specifically to England. Flexi-schooling is the term used for a system whereby children are partly educated at school and partly elsewhere, usually at home. The nature of home education is that it often does not follow strict timetables or the patterns of a normal school day. The families involved like the flexibility of having their children undertake educational activities in the evening and at weekends, e.g. attending sports clubs as part of a physical education programme.

Unlike full-time home education, any agreement between a pupil's parents and a school for the child to be flexi-schooled is at the head teacher's discretion. Flexischooling can be a long-term arrangement or a short-term measure for a particular reason. The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum whilst at school, but not whilst he or she is being educated at home. Government Guidelines on Home Education state that 'local authorities should make sure that head teachers are made familiar with flexi-schooling and how it may work in practice.'

### **Educated offsite/ Approved Educational Activity, Code B**

In July 2009 a Government spokesperson stated: 'Off-site activities which take place during the school's normal day can be recorded as approved educational activity, code B, but only if the activities meet the legislative requirements [see section 6 (4) of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006] and the school has received confirmation that the activity took place during the session in question. If the child was not undertaking educational activity, he/she should be recorded as authorised absence, code C.' [http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/flexi\\_schooling](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/flexi_schooling)

The Pupil Registration Regulations state that 'an approved educational activity is (a) an activity which takes place outside the school premises and which is- (i) approved by a person authorised in that behalf by the proprietor of the school: (ii) of an educational nature [...] and (iii) supervised by a person authorised in that behalf by the proprietor or the headteacher of the school.'

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20061751.htm> *Pupil Registration Regulations (England) 2006*

### **Article about flexischooling in the Independent May 2010**

'Many schools are unaware that flexi-schooling is an option. They often don't hear about it unless parents request it, and are then hesitant to agree. One common misconception is that local authorities will disapprove, although they have no power to decide – it is the head teacher's decision. There can be concern that the school's global absence scores will suffer, but if the child is registered as "educated offsite" rather than absent, for home-based sessions, this will not be an issue. I am fortunate in that the school I approached (a mainstream state primary) was happy to try flexi-schooling. A new head teacher started at the beginning of Niamh's second term, and a new Key Stage 1 teacher arrived last September: both are happy with the arrangement and pleased for it to continue. I feel it helps that the school is small – with fewer than 40 pupils in total – as this makes it easier to cater for individuals.'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/best-of-both-worlds-the-new-trend-of-flexischooling-1976414.html>

Teachernet web page on School Attendance

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/attendance/>

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Education Otherwise Association Limited, PO Box 3761, Swindon, SN2 9GT  
Helpline: 0845 4786 345 - Charity Registration Number: 1055120