



Flexi-Schooling Policy

THIS POLICY IS TO BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS

Chair of Governors, Jane Jones

signed

March 2026

1. Introduction and Background

East Preston Infant School is a Rights Respecting School. All pupils, staff and visitors have the right to be healthy, safe, educated, listened to and treated fairly. These principles are at the heart of our school ethos, and our policies and practices support these rights. We are committed to equal rights, mutual respect and shared responsibility.

At East Preston Infant School, we are committed to providing every child with high-quality, full-time education that nurtures their academic, social, emotional, and spiritual development. This commitment aligns with the Government's inclusion agenda as set out in the Schools White Paper 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'. The White Paper emphasises broad, ambitious curricula and the expectation that all children should attend school full time. It also stresses moving children from side-lined to included, and from withdrawn to engaged.

In November 2007, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) issued *Elective Home Education – Guidelines for Local Authorities*. These guidelines define flexi schooling as:

“An arrangement between the parent and the school, where the child is registered at school and attends the school only part time. This can be a long-term arrangement or a short-term measure for a particular reason.”

Responsibility for approving and managing flexi schooling arrangements rests with the school, not the Local Authority.

2. Guiding Principles

At East Preston Infant School, our governing body and leadership team affirm that full-time education is the expectation for all pupils, as this best supports their learning, wellbeing, and personal growth. However, requests for flexi schooling will be considered on an individual basis, taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of the child.

East Preston Infant School Governing Body believes:

- That the school's inclusive ethos allows it to meet the needs of most learners.
- That children within its community benefit from attending school full time so that they can make the most of our broad and creative curriculum - a curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of its learners - and its nurturing learning environment.
- That staff are skilled in meeting a wide range of needs, and support systems enable pupils with SEND to access the same ambitious curriculum.
- 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 East Preston Infant school work very hard for all children 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.
- This policy must not be used to put young people on a part timetable due to disruptive behaviour.

The school's inclusive, nurturing culture is recognised in the June 2025 Ofsted inspection. Warm relationships, strong safeguarding, consistency, and a rights-respecting ethos, ensure all children feel they belong. Staff know pupils well and provide carefully sequenced curriculum experiences. Resource deployment, staff training and SEND provision reflect the school's commitment to meeting diverse needs.

3. Requests for Flexi-schooling and consideration of Requests

Flexi-schooling will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

If a parent/carer would like the school to consider flexi-schooling for their child, they should write to the Headteacher, outlining the reasons why they would like this consideration, how they feel this would benefit their child, what learning they foresee will be taking place outside of the school and the pattern of attending school they wish to be considered.

Each request for flexi schooling will be reviewed carefully and individually. Decisions consider the child's needs, wellbeing, educational rationale and alignment with national inclusion and attendance expectations. The headteacher may speak with other school staff (Class teacher, SENDCo, Learning Mentor, ELSA) and ask to meet with the parents if they need further clarity on some aspects.

In complex cases, a panel consisting of governors, the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo may be convened to consider the request.

The Headteacher will then write to the parents/carer outlining their decision. The Headteacher's decision is final.

Government guidance makes it clear that flexi schooling should be considered only in exceptional circumstances, for example:

“A child needing to fulfil their Olympic potential or pursue a unique educational opportunity.”

The school retains the right to decline requests that do not meet this threshold.

4. Conditions of an Approved Flexi Schooling Arrangement

If, under exceptional circumstances, a flexi schooling request is approved, the following conditions will apply:

- Parents must demonstrate that home-based learning is suitable.
- A formal written agreement will be established between the school and the parents/carers outlining the terms, responsibilities, timetables and expectations for both parties.
- The school and parents/carers will work together to ensure a smooth transition between home education and school attendance, maintaining consistency, wellbeing, and continuity for the child.
- If, at any point, it appears that the education provided at home is unsuitable or not in accordance with the agreement, the school may:
 - Request that parents/carers take remedial action, and/or
 - Withdraw its agreement to the flexi schooling arrangement.

In such cases, the child will be required to return to full-time attendance at school.

5. Monitoring and Review

Flexi schooling arrangements will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the child's educational, social, and emotional needs continue to be met effectively.

The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body on any approved flexi schooling arrangements, without disclosing personal details.