



Oswald Road Primary School

Alternative Provision and Flexi School Policy

Policy ratified by Governing Body: September 2017

Headteacher: Deborah Howard
Chair of Governors: Richard Price

To be reviewed in 2 years: September 2019

As a school we are committed to providing personalised, high quality education for all children. We recognise that in some circumstances, children may need to access alternative provision (usually sourced by the school) and this policy seeks to address this. Some families may choose to request Flexi Schooling and although this will rarely be agreed at Oswald Road Primary School from September 2015, the school's guidelines on this are also set out in this policy. We are committed to the transition to this new policy and the Pastoral Team will work closely alongside teachers and Parents/Carers wherever needed.

What we will provide as a school:

We are committed to developing access to outside provision and Forest School type activities for all children. Within our school budget, we will aim for wider access to Forest School type activities weekly, with a further commitment to building capacity within our staff to provide such activities.

In school we have a Pastoral provision map to support children with any pastoral needs, which is led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Within the provision map, the staff will work together with parents to provide further support on top of Quality First Teaching for the child to ensure they are fully supported in all ways. This could be a range of interventions, for example:

- One to one sessions with the Pastoral Lead
- Lego Therapy
- 'Good to be Me' group
- P4C (Philosophy for Children)
- Buddies support
- Play Doh Club
- M21 Club
- Nurture Group
- Counselling
- Games Club

With all interventions, we provide regular communication with families and regular review of the benefits to the child.

Sometimes, accessing interventions from an outside provider will be appropriate. This is classed as alternative provision and will be (as with all other interventions in school) personalised for the child. This support will come from an outside provider, which will be sourced and funded by the school in liaison with the families. (See note below in 'The effect on school resources'). This provision will be regularly reviewed and the school will have the responsibility to ensure the provider is operating in line with legislation and has appropriate qualifications. School will also have the responsibility to oversee this intervention and feedback on the benefits to the child on a regular basis to families.

We are confident that between the Quality First Teaching within the classroom and any intervention where appropriate (whether that is provided in school or from an alternative provider led by the school), we can meet most children's needs fully.

Some families may however feel they would like to request to Flexi School their child.

What is Flexi-Schooling?

Combining schooling and non-schooling education in any ratio is perfectly legal, provided that the outcome is the provision of suitable full-time education for the child(ren), and the Local Authority must satisfy itself that this is so. However, the Headteacher must agree to the arrangement. Any school, maintained or independent, may accommodate Flexi-Schooling if it wishes to, but no school is under an obligation to do so.

In deciding whether to agree to a request for Flexi-Schooling arrangement, a Headteacher may consider such issues as:

- **What can be provided for by the school / organisations they work with**
(What the school can offer pastorally or from an outside agency they work with to support the child's needs)
- **Continuity of teaching and learning between home and school**
(How the potential Flexi Schooling arrangements impacts on flow of the week's teaching and learning and whether this can be managed)
- **The effect on school organisation and funding**
(How the potential arrangements affect the running of the school/classroom and any funding considerations)
- **The effect on school resources**
(Whether the potential Flexi School arrangements affect school staffing / deployment of staff or budget in any way).
Note: If application of the policy would lead to the request being declined because the school does not have the funds to pay for the placement (and the parents are willing to pay) then it may be deemed reasonable to allow parents to do so if the school is otherwise agreeable to the request.
- **The effect on school discipline and the morale and motivation of other children**
(Whether the potential Flexi School arrangements have any impact on this area for other children in the class/school)
- **Peer relationships / support**
(How the potential arrangements could affect the child in terms of their relationships with friends and any interventions they are accessing in school)
- **Safeguarding**

(Safety of our children is always of the utmost importance. This is considered in all decisions we make)

- **Impact on educational outcomes for all**

(Whether the potential arrangements affect the educational outcomes for the child or for other children in the class/school)

While a Governing Body may be involved in agreeing and reviewing a general approach and policy for handling requests for Flexi-Schooling, it is for the Headteacher to consider each request on its own merits. The Headteacher has the right to agree to or not to agree to Flexi Schooling arrangements (DfE guidance).

At Oswald Road a decision by the Governing Body was made that although families may request Flexi Schooling , if the Headteacher feels the School can accommodate for the child within either the provision in school or from an alternative provider sourced by the School , then permission will not be granted. The Governing Body expect that Flexi School arrangements would rarely be agreed due to the quality and range of pastoral provision provided by the School.

If a parent/carer would like to put in a request for Flexi Schooling, they will be invited to a meeting with the Headteacher.

If the Headteacher agrees to the Flexi Schooling request, an agreement will be signed by all parties. The Headteacher will talk through this agreement with the family if a request to Flexi School is agreed.

The Headteacher will make the decision within five working days of the meeting and inform families of the outcome via letter.

There is no appeal against the Headteacher's decision on Flexi Schooling.

If there has been a **significant** change of circumstances for the child since the request and the parent/carer would like the Headteacher to reconsider:
The parent/carer would contact the Headteacher and they will be invited in for another meeting to put forward the request with the significant change of circumstance. Please note, this will only happen if there has been a significant change of circumstances around the reason for the request since the last request.