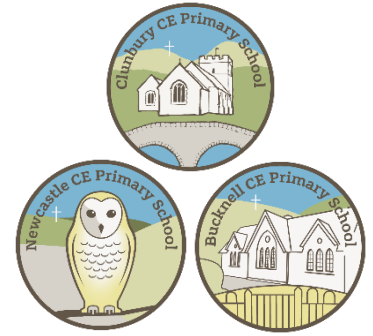




# Blue Hills Federation



## FLEXI SCHOOL POLICY

Autumn 2025

### The Blue Hills Federation

The Blue Hills Federation is a collective of three primary schools – Clunbury CE Primary School, Newcastle CE Primary School and St Mary's Bucknell CE Primary School. All three schools share one Executive Headteacher and one Governing Body. When using the term 'Blue Hills Federation' within this policy, it is in reference to all three schools. When policy only applies to one school that school will be named specifically. Newcastle CE Primary School does not have a nursery or a preschool, therefore any references to nursery or pre-school do not apply to Newcastle CE Primary School.

### Our Vision

Proverbs 22:6 - Good News Bible

**Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.'**

We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitates learning for all. We encourage everybody to become confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.

### Our Values

Trust and Truth; Joy and Happiness; Love and Respect; Thankfulness; Friendship and Family; Perseverance and Resilience

**Review Date: Autumn 2028**

## Introduction

At Newcastle CE Primary School, we recognise the right of parents/carers to choose a suitable education for their child according to the child's dispositions and needs and the families' beliefs and values. At Newcastle CE Primary School, we welcome all children irrespective of background or belief to our school, and firmly believe that our flexi-schooling provision can be an arrangement which is beneficial to all.

Parents need to be aware that schools do not have to provide flexi-schooling by law but at Newcastle CE Primary school, we feel strongly that every child should have access to education and be supported with social, emotional, physical and mental needs in a way that suits them. If this means they do not access school full- time, the school will engage with parents to find ways to support through flexible schooling.

Our flexi-schooling provision is available to children who are currently Elective Home Educated. We will also consider requests from parents whose children are finding formal education in their current setting a challenge that is likely to lead to school refusal. Mental health and wellbeing is a key driving force for us and if we can support children and parents where full time education is impacting on this then we are willing to support families through a flexible approach where possible.

However, flexi-schooling is offered at the discretion of the Executive Headteacher – there are no rights of appeal if this provision is declined, varied by the school or revoked. Parents should be aware that flexi-schooling is not to be taken as a means to avoid education, or to avoid being excluded, and we will not accept any children on flexi-schooling arrangements who have been excluded.

In order for our school to enter into and continue a flexi- schooling arrangement, parents and carers must accept and maintain the framework of expectations reflected within this policy. This policy is intended to assist parents who may be considering whether to request that the education of their statutory-age child is partly at school and the remainder elsewhere, generally at home.

Newcastle CE Primary School is happy to discuss requests from parents who wish for their child to have a flexible education. Newcastle CE Primary School's policy is that children spend a minimum of 3 days in school as part of their flexi-school agreement (core days). The 3 designated core days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; requests to change set days will only be made in exceptional circumstances. If a school or residential trip fall on home school days, children may attend these events as extra days.

## Background

The responsibility for a child receiving a full- time education while he or she is of statutory school age lies with the parent. Where a parent educates a child partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called flexi-schooling. Where a parent educates a child entirely at home as an expression of parental preference, this is called elective home education.

Flexi-schooling can be defined as:

**An arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school and attends the school only part of the time; the rest of the time the child is home educated (on authorised absence from school). This can be a long-term arrangement or a short-term measure for a particular reason. Flexi-schooling is a legal option provided that the Headteacher at the school concerned agrees to the arrangement. The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum whilst at school but not whilst he or she is being educated at home.** (DCSF (Now Department for Education DfE) 2007. Elective Home Education: Guidance for Local Authorities)

Flexi schooling must not be confused with elective home education. Parents have a legal right to choose to home educate their child but parents do not have a legal right to insist on a flexi- schooling arrangement being agreed to by our school. There is no statutory curriculum for the home education element of our flexi-schooling arrangement. None the less, 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.

We see flexi-schooling as;

A process of co-operative teamwork, within which we welcome and encourage the involvement of parents in the education of their children.

- we treat all children fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities
- we treat all children with kindness and respect
- we praise all children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards our school and learning in general
- our teachers apply our policies with regard to discipline and classroom management
- teaching staff make clear the class code of conduct
- all children are expected to comply with the rules that are in place to promote the best learning atmosphere for all
- we insist on good order and behaviour at all times
- children who misbehave will be managed fairly within the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school Behaviour Policy
- we conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

## **Aims**

Being a small rural school affords our school the ability to offer some opportunities not readily offered elsewhere – flexi-Schooling is one of these opportunities that work well in unique small rural schools.

At Newcastle CE Primary School, we believe that people learn in many different ways and we endeavour to provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

At Newcastle CE Primary School we endeavour to offer an education which :

- is more flexible in its approach and encompasses and supports all children
- allows access to a happy, stimulating, secure and safe environment
- offers all children an equal opportunity to develop their abilities and personalities, helping to unlock their potential
- allows access to the bank of knowledge, skills, concepts, attitudes, and values of our broad and balanced curriculum
- fosters a lifelong love of learning, in a shared environment where pupils, parents and teachers can effectively work together, enhancing the education provision for all
- allows the opportunity for our children to share a healthy respect for personal choice and a clear understanding and acceptance of others and their ideals
- allows the opportunity to develop a responsible and independent attitude towards learning
- ensures welfare checks to ensure all safeguarding needs are being met

## **Attendance Options**

We offer two schooling options at Newcastle CE Primary School;

- Formal Option – Full-time regular education within statutory guidelines (normal registration codes)

- Flexi-School Option\* – Flexi-schooled education, where the child comes on agreed days, wears school uniform and joins in with the timetabled opportunities
- for that day (B code if following school guidance / National Curriculum or C Code if taught otherwise)

## **Teaching and Learning**

Flexi-schooling is a legal option provided that our Executive Head Teacher agrees to the arrangement. The child will be required to follow the National Curriculum whilst at school but not whilst they are being educated at home. There is no statutory curriculum for the home education element of our flexi-schooling arrangement. None the less 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. All teaching and learning offered on the core days reflects our curriculum policies as offered to children who attend on a formal basis. This policy and our other school policies do not seek to prescribe how children should be taught at home for the home education element of the Flexi-schooling arrangement.

Our timetable is organised so that children who are Flexi-schooled can continue follow-up work after attending what we term the three 'Core Days' of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. All children have access to the full curriculum. If a child is accepted on roll to attend on the flexi-school basis, parents need to be aware that they are fully responsible for the Safeguarding and Child Protection elements relating to their child when away from the Federation and being Home Educated. This extends to education provided by a 3rd party arranged by the parent/carer/responsible adult.

## **Flexi-Schooling at Newcastle CE Primary School**

We want all children to have access to a wide range of educational opportunities. We will ensure this happens for every child. If you wish your child to join our school on a Flexi-School basis, then we ask that, after a discussion with the Executive Head teacher, that you complete a form agreeing to the three core days and with the opportunity to increase to full-time at a later date.

We welcome visits by all parents to the school to look at our Flexi-School provision and the make-up and structure of the schools.



### As a school

We will do our best to:

- Support your child's wellbeing and safety by providing a safe, supportive and caring environment
- Help and encourage your child to reach their full potential
- Monitor and communicate with parents and carers regularly on your child's progress
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that caters for all children
- Provide curriculum information on our federation website.
- Promote high standards of behaviour so we can maintain a safe environment for all children
- Offer your child opportunities to develop a sense of responsibility, form healthy social relationships and build their self-esteem
- Offer opportunities for parents and carers to get involved in school life
- Communicate between home and school through notices, newsletters, text, email and the school website
- Respond to communications from parents in a timely manner, following school policies
- Encourage good attendance and address any concerns with parents or carers where necessary
- Follow up any unexpected or unexplained absence in the same way as it does for other children, following the First Day calling procedures
- Communicate how and when your child will be assessed and arrangements for public assessments and examinations.
- Notify Shropshire Council of the flexi school agreement.

### Parents/carers

I will do my best to:

- Make sure my child attends school regularly and on time. I will notify the school if my child will be absent
- Adhere to the 3 core days outlined in the policy
- Request in advance any additional days at school and accept that this may not be always possible.
- Make sure my child is dressed in the correct uniform and brings their PE kit to school where necessary
- Support the school to make sure my child maintains a consistently high standard of behaviour
- Encourage my child to try their best so they can reach their full potential
- Communicate to the school any concerns that I have about my child that may affect their behaviour in school or ability to learn

- Make sure communication with the school is respectful, and that I make every reasonable effort to address my communications to the appropriate member of staff
- Understand that I should communicate with staff during core school hours, and although they may at times respond outside of those hours, I can't always expect that
- Make sure that my child completes their homework on time, and raise any issues that my child has with their teachers
- Read and follow the school's policies
- Treat all members of the school community with care and respect
- Engage in parent meetings and review meetings and work together with the school in order to achieve the best outcomes for my child
- Read all communications sent home by the school and respond where necessary
- Undertake all necessary safeguarding checks including DBS requirements during the time my child is not in school.
- Ensure that my undertakes statutory assessment at the time and date required.
- Provide details about what areas or subjects will be studied at home, or away from the school site and what areas or subjects will be taught in school.
- I will meet all costs for the education that is provided for my child outside school

## Pupils

I will do my best to:

- Arrive at school on time and ready to learn
- Try my best to do my work and ask for help if I need it
- Wear the correct school uniform and bring my PE kit to school when I need it
- Bring all the equipment I need each day
- Be friendly and caring towards other children and adults
- Listen to instructions from the adults at school and follow the school rules
- Do my homework and bring it back to school on time
- Look after the school equipment and be respectful of the school environment

Refusal to sign the flexi-schooling agreement will mean that the school will not enter into flexi-schooling arrangements. Similarly, if the parent fails to follow the terms of the agreement, the school must inform the parent that the flexi-schooling arrangement will be discontinued. The child is then required to attend school on a full-time basis.