

# An introduction to flexischooling

Improving wellbeing for children while reducing pressure on families, school staff and local budgets

## What is flexischooling?

A positive and practical hybrid schooling arrangement, also providing an alternative to traditional ways of tackling non-attendance at school.

Children receive a full time education, benefitting from improved wellbeing, while families avoid added stress and schools can register better attendance rates.

Flexischooling arrangements are co-created between families and schools according to national guidance and local authority policy.

## Why flexischooling for...

**...local authorities?** Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide an education and safeguard children who are not in school. This incurs huge costs due to attendance enforcement, escalating interventions or lost SEND tribunals. Flexischooling offers a way to reallocate resources, reduce costs and relieve the burden on schools.

**...schools?** There is already heavy pressure to improve unauthorised absence figures. Yet schools have little or no resources to offer support to children who need it and teachers also struggle. Flexischooling helps improve attendance figures and allows schools to retain full pupil funding.

**...families?** Growing numbers of children - especially those with a SEND profile - are missing school. Yet parents and carers find forced school attendance to be a significant source of stress. Flexischooling improves access to education for children while fewer parents have to resort to deregistration or are fined for non-attendance.



## How can Finding the Flex help?

Finding the Flex actively promotes flexischooling as a positive option for addressing non-attendance at school.

We do this by bridging the gap between discovering individual family needs, designing bespoke schooling arrangements and developing workable policies for MATs and LAs.

## Good to know

- Bespoke timetables can be tailored to individual needs, with proven benefits for neurodivergent children and those with SEND.
- Arrangements are always agreed at the discretion of the headteacher and should be reviewed at least once a term.
- Best practice is to ensure robust policies at local authority, trust and school level.