

# Finding the Flex Voices Professionals

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## Focus on flexischooling

- 1 As a mainstream deputy head, if I had been able to work with families on flexischooling it would have really benefitted many students who had mental health needs.
- 2 It makes sense for education professionals to work WITH families on flexibilities in the best interests of the children.
- 3 The pressure of 5 days of school and the intensity of the school day is just too much for some students at some points in their lives.
- 4 Punitive attendance procedures cause stress for whole families which is detrimental to children's wellbeing.
- 5 To put it simply, when a child has reached burnout, mental health must be the priority, to ensure access to education.

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As a DSL, I am deeply concerned about the increase in de-registrations from school (self-exclusions) which place some children at greater risk. I would prefer ALL children were in sight of safeguarding professionals some of the time than none of the time.

## The flexibility to flourish

When I first heard about flexischooling, I was sceptical. The idea of time learning outside school, seemed to undermine our focus on attendance. But I've often felt stuck working with young people and families, trying to push attendance when it wasn't helping.

I've now seen how flexischooling opens up new conversations with families, making it easier to support a child's unique needs. It can genuinely meet the needs of young people who sometimes struggle with full-time school. It's a practical way to provide 100% of their education in a way that works for them.

Reduced timetables can help temporarily, but for some children, a more flexible approach - long term - is truly beneficial. Flexischooling provides that option, allowing kids to thrive without constant adjustments and setbacks.

