

# East Lothian Council

**FOI Ref: 2018/111(13223)**

**Please would you provide answers to the following questions:**

## **FLEXISCHOOLING POLICY**

**1. Flexischooling is defined by the Scottish government as where a child attends school part-time and is home educated for the remainder of the week, and can be arranged in collaboration with the school and parents. More information is available here: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2007/12/17133313/3>**

**Does your LA use the term flexischooling to refer to this arrangement, or is it known by a different term?**

Yes, East Lothian Council (ELC) uses the term flexischooling.

**2. Please send us copies of written information that your LA makes available to staff, schools or parents to guide and support;**

**a. requesting a flexischooling arrangement,**

ELC does not have written guidance regarding requesting a Flexischooling arrangement.

**b. the decision-making process in accepting or rejecting a request**

ELC uses Scottish Home Education Guidance:

### **3.6 Flexi schooling**

*Local authorities may occasionally receive a request to withdraw a child part time from school, e.g. for the child to attend school only on certain days, or for certain subjects. The feasibility of each request should be considered on its own merit, while taking into consideration that under Section 28 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 ' so far as is compatible with the provision of suitable instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents' . Ultimately, however, it is a decision for each local authority and school as to whether they can support such an arrangement.*

*As you will see it is a decision for each Local Authority and school as whether they can support such an arrangement. Sometimes schools will offer flexible schooling in exceptional circumstances e.g. a child experiencing complex/ enduring medical condition. This is normally a short term situation and does not require permission for the child to be removed from the school roll. It is undertaken as a response to a fairly acute situation and is supported by other professionals/ agencies working with the child. This situation is closely monitored with aim of getting the child back into full time education as quickly as possible. This is normally a decision which would be taken at school level.*

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***c. the ongoing support for schools and families involved in flexischooling.***

Not applicable as ELC has no families flexischooling.

***This might include, but not be limited to, policies, procedures and information/guidance sheets.***

***3. If you do not have any written information as described above, please tell us how a request for a new flexischooling arrangement would be dealt with.***

Not applicable

***4. Which role within your LA has responsibility for flexischooling? What are their responsibilities? Please provide us with the contact details (name, email, phone number) of the person who currently holds this role.***

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## **FLEXISCHOOLING NUMBERS**

***1. How many children do you believe are currently flexischooling in your LA? Please tell us how you calculated this number (eg based on requests for arrangements, headteacher reports, registration codes).***

East Lothian has no children, at present, who are being flexi schooled.

***2. Please provide a breakdown of these numbers indicating the phase of schooling ie number at primary (5-11) level, number at secondary (11-18) level.***

Nil

***3. How many flexischooled children are known to require Additional Support for Learning (ASL).***

Nil

***4. How many requests have been made for flexischooling arrangements during the academic years;***

***a) 2014-15 - 0***

***b) 2015-16 - 1***

***c) 2016-17 - 1***

The figures quoted above related to requests received by the Local Authority. ELC has very few requests.

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***5. How many requests in each of those time periods were accepted?***

None

***6. How many requests in each of those time periods were refused. Please give a breakdown of the reasons for which they were refused.***

All were refused as none met the criteria set out above with regard to flexischooling.