

FOI DfE correspondence chronological order
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/correspondence_related_to_flexis

<http://edyourself.org/flexifoichronological.pdf>

From: Fiona Nicholson

27 February 2013

Dear Department for Education,

Please could you supply me with copies of internal and external mails which make reference to flexischooling (also known as flexi-schooling) for the period covering January and February 2013.

In other words I should like to see correspondence between members of the department and also correspondence into the department and out of the department on this subject.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona Nicholson

Sent: 18 January 2013 17:29
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy

From: PO, Correspondence Team
Sent: 25 January 2013 17:29
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: PO, Correspondence Team; (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 29 January 2013 12:44
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: PO, Correspondence Team
Sent: 31 January 2013 16:08
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); PO, Correspondence Team

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 01 February 2013 17:50
To: PO, Correspondence Team
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 03 February 2013 14:41
To: PO, Correspondence Team
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 04 February 2013 11:59
To: PO, Correspondence Team

From: PO, Correspondence Team
Sent: 04 February 2013 17:13
To: HURDLE, Andy

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 05 February 2013 10:15
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 05 February 2013 10:37
To: HURDLE, Andy

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 05 February 2013 10:56
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 05 February 2013 11:07

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 06 February 2013 12:27
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 06 February 2013 16:38
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 08 February 2013 09:07
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 08 February 2013 11:33
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam

From: PO, Correspondence Team
Sent: 08 February 2013 12:39
To: (junior officials name removed); PO, Correspondence Team
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy

From: PO, Correspondence Team
Sent: 15 February 2013 16:16
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 15 February 2013 16:35
To: WYE, Andrew

From: WYE, Andrew
Sent: 18 February 2013 07:19
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: SANDEMAN, Dugald
Sent: 26 February 2013 08:01
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 26 February 2013 08:04
To: SANDEMAN, Dugald
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 11:29
To: HURDLE, Andy

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 26 February 2013 11:39
To: JONES, Penny

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 11:45
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials names removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:25
To: JONES, Penny (junior officials names removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:30
To: JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 01:33 PM GMT Standard Time
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:34
To: JONES, Penny

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:35
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:38
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:41
To: JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:47
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials names removed); JONES, Penny

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:51
To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy

Sent: 26 February 2013 13:54
To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:00
To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 02:10 PM GMT Standard Time
To: JONES, Penny

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:15
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:23
To: (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:25
To: EDITOR, Web

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:31
To: JONES, Penny

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:49
To: JONES, Penny

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 15:02
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 15:12
To: (junior officials name removed); EDITOR, Web
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

From: EDITOR, Web
Sent: 26 February 2013 16:07
To: (junior officials names removed); EDITOR, Web
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 26 February 2013 17:11
To: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials names removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 17:12
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials names removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 27 February 2013 11:47
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: JONES, Penny; PS, Advisers; RUSSELL, David; SANDEMAN, Dugald; PS, Truss; JACKSON, Anne; (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 27 February 2013 11:52
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)

From: PS, Truss
Sent: 27 February 2013 11:56
To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: PS, Sec-OF-STATE; PS, Truss; PS, Advisers (junior officials names removed)
From: CUNLIFFE-MILLER, Jobshare
Sent: 27 February 2013 12:12
To: WYE, Andrew; (junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 27 February 2013 14:10
To: JONES, Penny; ESD, Submissions; (junior officials names removed)
Cc: (junior officials names removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 27 February 2013 14:32
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: JONES, Penny; PS, Advisers; RUSSELL, David; SANDEMAN, Dugald; PS, Truss; JACKSON, Anne; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 27 February 2013 15:05
To: JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy; ESD, Submissions; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 03:59 PM GMT Standard Time
To: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: RUSSELL, David; JACKSON, Anne (junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 27 February 2013 17:56
To: PS, Truss; PRIVATE, LT
Cc: PS, Sec-OF-STATE; PS, Advisers;; HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny;; PS, Laws; PS, Nash; PS, Timpson;

HALNAN, Penny-LAO; PERMANENT, Secretary; RUSSELL, David; MEEK, Stephen; JACKSON, Anne;
SANDEMAN, Dugald; (junior officials names removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 18 January 2013 17:29
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy
Subject: Home education and Flexi-schooling

(junior officials name removed)

Following the Departmental review, my team will cease to exist by the end of this month. Home education policy goes to the independent schools and boarding team on a care and maintenance basis. The handover takes place next week. As the position on flexi-schooling is being driven by school attendance policy, I am working on the basis that policy responsibility for it now rests with your team. I am also working on the basis that complaints/concerns that home educated children may not be receiving a suitable education are dealt with as Children Missing Education policy and not home education policy.

Let me know if you agree/disagree or want to discuss.

(junior officials name removed)

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 25 January 2013 17:29
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: PO, CorrespondenceTeam; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Correspondence response request ref 2013/0004963 due 30/01 [LT] SG

Hi (junior officials name removed)

Please could you provide a response to this PO case? **Please note that this case is linked to** (ref number removed)

If this is not for you, please could you forward it to the relevant official within 24 hours, copying in this email address and noting their policy team.

Full details are:

PO case reference and correspondent's name	(ref number removed) Graham Stuart MP
Deadline	COP Tuesday– 30/01/2013
Replying Minister	Liz Truss
For response	Type of reply Draft response Subject Attendance codes and flexi-schooling

Many thanks in advance,

(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Officer

4963 - Advice PO case
Flexi-schooling signed 04963 GrahamStuart

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 29 January 2013 12:44
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: flexi schooling codes PO case

(junior officials name removed)

Can you provide some lines on this – the codes used - by noon tomorrow?

Many thanks

(junior officials name removed)

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 31 January 2013 16:08
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Subject: FW: Correspondence response request (ref number removed) due 30/01 [LT] SG

Hi (junior officials name removed),

According to our records we have not yet received a contribution to this letter. The case reference is (ref number removed)

Please could you provide us an update or a contribution **by noon/close of play on 1st Feb?**

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks in advance,

(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Officer

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 01 February 2013 17:50
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Correspondence response request (ref number removed) due 30/01 [LT] SG

Hi, apologies that this is a late. I attach the draft response and advice for the Minister as background.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team
Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 03 February 2013 14:41
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Correspondence response request (ref number removed) due 30/01 [LT] SG
-revised

Sorry, slightly revised note and draft reply for you.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team
Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 04 February 2013 11:59
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Subject: FW: Correspondence response request (ref number removed) due 30/01 [LT] SG
-revised

(junior officials name removed)

We spoke, there were a few words missing from earlier draft sent so please use this version.

Many thanks

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team
Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 04 February 2013 17:13
To: HURDLE, Andy
Cc: (junior officials name removed); PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Subject: Re: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb
Importance: High

Dear Andy

With thanks to (junior officials name removed) for her contribution, please see the attached correspondence and draft reply about the flexi-schooling arrangement. Grateful if you could please clear by 5pm tomorrow.

Thanks

.....
(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Management Team

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 05 February 2013 10:15
To: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb
Importance: High

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 05 February 2013 10:37
To: HURDLE, Andy
Subject: FW: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb
Importance: High

Andy,
PO has taken advice on board and used the lines we provided. I just made a slight change to the text.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 05 February 2013 10:56
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb

Thanks (junior officials name removed)- as discussed.

Andy

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 05 February 2013 11:07
To: (junior officials names removed)
Subject: Urgent: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb

Dear colleagues,
Graham Stuart MP (Chair of the Education Select Committee) has been lobbying Ministers for time about support for home educators. One of his suggestions was the changing of the attendance code to support flexi-schooling (an arrangement where a child is part educated at a school and the rest at home). **REDACTED**
The attached draft response to Mr Stuart reflects this advice. I would be grateful for your comments.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 06 February 2013 12:27
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Flexi-schooling - text from Keeping Pupil Registers guidance

(junior officials name removed)

As discussed, the following is the text that was in our previous guidance 'Keeping Pupil Registers'.

Flexi-schooling

114. "Flexi-schooling" is the term used for a system whereby children are partly educated at school and partly educated elsewhere, usually at home. The nature of home education is that it often does not follow strict timetables or the patterns of a normal school day. The families involved like the flexibility

of having their children undertake educational activities in the evening and at weekends e.g. attending sports clubs as part of a physical education programme. Unlike full-time home education, any agreement between a pupil's parents and a school for the child to be "flexi-schooled" is at the headteacher's discretion.

115. Flexi-schooling should not be confused with part-time timetable. In the case of the former, the child must be in full-time education throughout the school-year.

116. Schools must not seek to persuade parents to educate their children in order to avoid exclusion or action for poor attendance. They must follow statutory exclusions guidance if they wish to remove a child from the school and, in the case of poor attendance, address the reasons for the absences.

117. Educational activities that take place outside the normal school day are not recorded in the statutory attendance register (see paragraph 109). Off-site activities which take place during the school's normal day (see paragraph 11) can be recorded as approved educational activity (see paragraph 69) but only if the activities meet the legislative requirements and the school has received confirmation that the activity took place during the session in question. Sessions which the child is expected to attend the school are marked in the normal way.

118. If the child was not undertaking educational activity, he/she should be recorded as authorised absence using Code C. If the school is notified the child was ill, attending a medical or dental appointment, on a family holiday or was absent for some other reason then the appropriate attendance code should be used. Schools should therefore make arrangements to exchange attendance information with the family.

Thanks

(junior officials name removed)

From: HURDLE, Andy

Sent: 06 February 2013 16:38

To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam

Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb

Many thanks – this is quite detailed and complicated. I'm grateful to colleagues for their contributions. This version cleared by me.

Andy

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 08 February 2013 09:07

To: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: Flexi-schooling

(junior officials name removed)

Sorry for not responding yesterday – got side tracked....

Parents are responsible in law for ensuring that their children of compulsory school age receive an efficient full-time education. This can either be by regular attendance at school or by education otherwise (which includes home education). The law does not provide for a combination of both.

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 08 February 2013 11:33
To: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy
Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb

(junior officials name removed),
Please can we have a copy of the signed letter, so as to confirm that the Minister agrees with our policy lines.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 08 February 2013 12:39
To: (junior officials name removed); PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy
Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - please clear by 5 Feb

Hello (junior officials name removed) – Ok, I'll send a copy asap.

.....
(junior officials name removed)
Private Office Correspondence Management Team

From: PO, CorrespondenceTeam
Sent: 15 February 2013 16:16
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy
Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - copy of signed letter
Importance: High

Dear all – please see the attached copy of signed letter.

Thanks
(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 15 February 2013 16:35
To: WYE, Andrew
Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - copy of signed letter
Importance: High

Andrew

For info and many thanks for your advice.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team
Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division

From: WYE, Andrew

Sent: 18 February 2013 07:19

To: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: (ref number removed) [LT] BN - copy of signed letter

Importance: High

To see

From: SANDEMAN, Dugald

Sent: 26 February 2013 08:01

To: (junior officials name removed)

Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

(junior officials name removed)

Sorry - I have not followed this. REDACTED

Dugald

Dugald Sandeman

Maintained Schools Division

Education Funding Agency

Sent: 26 February 2013 08:04

To: SANDEMAN, Dugald

Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Yes, fine

From: JONES, Penny

Sent: 26 February 2013 11:29

To: HURDLE, Andy

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Have you attached Liz's letter or am I being stupid?

From: HURDLE, Andy

Sent: 26 February 2013 11:39

To: JONES, Penny

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Penny – just noticed your guidance that you updated last year, and is on the website, says the following,

Flexi-schooling

5.6 “Flexi-schooling” or “flexible school attendance” is an arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school and attends the school only part 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 head teacher 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. Local authorities should make sure that head teachers are made familiar with flexi-schooling and how it may work in practice. Further information is available in the DCSF's guidance *Keeping Pupil Registers*.²¹

REDACTED

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 11:45
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials names removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Yes – we need to change it – (junior officials name removed) can you and (junior officials name removed) agree a revised para.

REDACTED.....

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:25
To: JONES, Penny (junior officials names removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Thanks Penny – in the interim can we get your guidelines taken down asap (today). **REDACTED**

Andy

**Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director
Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division**

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:30
To: JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Penny

Do you agree with taking the guidance offline today/ If so I can ask (junior officials name removed) to do it this afternoon (junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 01:33 PM GMT Standard Time
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed); HURDLE, Andy
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling (junior officials name removed)

Could we remove the section on flexi schooling and replace it with text saying 'under review'. I am loathe to take the whole thing down because of the Select Committee enquiry. Home educators will think there is something fundamentally wrong with the guidance and we don't want unfounded rumours circulating. Andy what do you think?

From: HURDLE, Andy
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:34
To: JONES, Penny
Subject: Re: Flexi Schooling

That's fine. Just remove the contradictory text.

Thanks,

**Andy
Andy Hurdle
Deputy Director, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division**

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:35
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: FW: Flexi Schooling

Here's the answer....

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:38
To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

OK - Andy are you going to take the issue forward. With the Select Committee ongoing this needs sorting quickly. (junior officials name removed) - what are SC timescales?

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:41
To: JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

(junior officials name removed) – you have been dealing with the remnants of this – can you help on timescale?

(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 13:47
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: (junior officials names removed); JONES, Penny
Subject: Elective Home education Guidelines
Importance: High

(junior officials name removed)

We spoke. At:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/parents/involvement/homeeducation/a0073367/lective-home-education-guidelines>

There is on the right hand side a link to a downloadable pdf document containing the guidelines. We need paragraph 5.6 of this (on flexi-schooling) removed completely, and replaced with text which simply says 'under review' **REDACTED**

It will be rewritten but the attendance team has asked that we get it off the website as soon as we can, ie today if possible.

I'm not sure if the fact that it is a pdf document will make it difficult for you – please let me know if it is. I shall be on email up till about 3pm but at a meeting after that.

Thanks very much

(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 26 February 2013 13:51

To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

No set timescale for publication. Is your meeting with Graham Stuart to discuss our response?

Just to be clear about the version on the website - we did not update it last year. They are the 2007 guidelines. They occasionally drop off the website for reasons unknown and get put back on again when the home educators complain that they can't find them. There was a disclaimer on them saying that they were published by the previous Government and do not necessarily represent the policy of this Government.

(junior officials name removed)

Sent: 26 February 2013 13:54

To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy

Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

REDACTED

My meeting with Graham Stuart (if Liz truss' office agrees) is just about home education generally, not the Select Ctt response
(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 26 February 2013 14:00

To: (junior officials name removed); JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

I agree. In the short term you could simply add on a message saying that the section on flexi-schooling is out of date and refer them to the guidance that now applies.

(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 02:10 PM GMT Standard Time

To: JONES, Penny

Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Penny

Because the guidelines are a pdf document, (junior officials name removed) cannot amend. She is asking (junior officials name removed) if he has the WORD version but if this cannot be found, do you want the entire document taken off for the time being?

(junior officials name removed)

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:15
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: Re: Flexi Schooling

Yes but will need to get up again tomorrow

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:17
To: JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

That may not be possible (or at least easy) because if the original WORD document cannot be found then the entire document will need to be retyped if it is to be amended.

From: JONES, Penny
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:23
To: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Need to find someone to do the typing job asap, then. The rumour mill is a dangerous thing.

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:25
To: EDITOR, Web
Subject: FW: Elective Home education Guidelines (content id 73367)
Importance: High

Penny Jones has asked for a PDF document on the website to be updated. This is an urgent change.

This isn't my area of work and I don't have access to the Word version of the document, is this something that you are able to do using Adobe Acrobat?

Would you let me know if you are able to help?

(junior officials name removed)
School Governance Unit
Independent Education and School Governance Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:31
To: JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

I will wait for (junior officials name removed) to let me know if she uncovers the WORD original

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 14:49
To: JONES, Penny
Cc: (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

It has not been possible to amend. (junior officials name removed) is getting the guidelines document taken off, with a sentence saying it is being reviewed on the web page itself. She will find someone to authorise the change

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 15:02
To: (junior officials name removed)
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: For action: Elective Home education Guidelines (content id 73367)
Importance: High

(junior officials name removed),

See the message from (junior officials name removed), below. As we don't have the guidelines in Word format I have agreed to remove the document and put a note on the page to say that they are being reviewed.

Please forward this to the web editor to be published.

(junior officials name removed)
School Governance Unit
Independent Education and School Governance Division

From: (junior officials name removed)
Sent: 26 February 2013 15:12
To: (junior officials name removed); EDITOR, Web
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: ts - RE: For action: Elective Home education Guidelines (content id 73367)

Webteam – please publish the amended page 73367 this afternoon to remove from the web a document that no longer reflects government policy.
Many thanks

(junior officials name removed)
School Governance Unit

From: EDITOR, Web
Sent: 26 February 2013 16:07
To: (junior officials names removed); EDITOR, Web
Cc: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)
Subject: RE: ts - RE: For action: Elective Home education Guidelines (content id 73367)

Hi (junior officials name removed)

I've now republished that page for you as requested

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/parents/involvement/homeeducation/a0073367/lective-home-education-guidelines>

Thanks

(junior officials name removed)

Web Editor

From: HURDLE, Andy

Sent: 26 February 2013 17:11

To: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: (junior officials names removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

Penny – of course – we have started drafting a sub and will need input of course from you and yours.

Apparently Liz Truss had 50 emails at the weekend about flexi-schooling...

Andy

Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director

Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

(junior officials name removed)

We have now published our new guidance 'Advice on school attendance'

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/f00221879/advice-on-school-attendance>

This replaces our previous guidance 'Keeping Pupil Registers'.

REDACTED

Page 22 of 'Advice on school attendance' states:

'Can a school agree to a so-called flexi-schooling arrangement; where the pupil is partly educated at school and partly educated at home?'

No. Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children of compulsory school age receiving full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude. Parents can fulfil this duty by either registering their children at a school or by education otherwise than at a school (which includes home education). The law does not provide for a combination of both.

Where parents decide to educate their child at a school, parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly. If they fail to do this they may be committing an offence. Schools are funded to provide full-time education for all pupils (age 5-16) on their register and therefore are accountable for the standard of education their pupils receive. A flexi-schooling arrangement means some schools would receive a full unit of funding for certain pupils for whom they do not provide fulltime education, and in some cases, may provide very little.'

This is now in direct conflict of the advice contained in the 'Elective Home Education Guidance for Local Authorities'

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/parents/involvement/homeeducation/a0073367/elective-home-education-guidelines>

which states:

Flexi-schooling

5.6 "Flexi-schooling" or "flexible school attendance" is an arrangement between the parent and the school where the child is registered at school and attends the school only part 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 head teacher 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. Local authorities should make sure that head teachers are made familiar with flexi-schooling and how it may work in practice. Further information is available in the DCSF's guidance *Keeping Pupil Registers*.

There is a note on the webpage stating 'Please note that the home education guidelines were produced by the previous administration and will be reviewed in due course'.

Is this guidance currently under review – if so, when is new guidance expected to be published? The section on flexi-schooling needs to be amended to reflect our current guidance.

Thank you

(junior officials name removed)

School Attendance Team | Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division

From: JONES, Penny

Sent: 26 February 2013 17:12

To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: (junior officials names removed)

Subject: RE: Flexi Schooling

I hope we're not answering them!

From: HURDLE, Andy

Sent: 27 February 2013 11:47

To: (junior officials name removed)

Cc: JONES, Penny; PS, Advisers; RUSSELL, David; SANDEMAN, Dugald; PS, Truss; JACKSON, Anne; (junior officials name removed)

Subject: Heads Up: Flexi-Schooling - possible contentious issue

Hello (junior officials name removed)

Following an approach from Graham Stuart about support for home educators, Liz Truss replied on 14 February with the attached letter (the attached advice accompanied that draft).

The previous Government issued guidance about elective home education which referenced arrangements whereby a pupil could be both registered at a school (and for whom the school received full-time pupil funding) whilst also being home educated). These guidelines have been on the DfE website with the caveat about not necessarily representing the current Government's policy.

Under these arrangements schools *could* effectively support home educated pupils by setting work, allowing the pupils to physically attend the school routinely or sporadically, and give the home educated pupil access through the school to examinations etc... Schools using these arrangements have in some cases marked a pupil as attending the school in the register even if physically they are at home for long periods of time. A recent example is a school which effectively contracts with home educators, requires the pupils to physically attend the school once a fortnight but which has a 95% attendance rate recorded on the DfE website performance tables.

REDACTED

Andy

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 27 February 2013 11:52

To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: JONES, Penny; PS, Advisers; RUSSELL, David; SANDEMAN, Dugald; PS, Truss; JACKSON, Anne; (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Heads Up: Flexi-Schooling - possible contentious issue

Andy

I am happy with these lines.

(junior officials name removed)

From: PS, Truss

Sent: 27 February 2013 11:56

To: HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: PS, Sec-OF-STATE; PS, Truss; PS, Advisers (junior officials names removed)

Subject: Flexi-schooling letters

Hello all,

As I've been discussing with (junior officials name removed), the Minister has received a number of letters (around 50-60 so far) about flexi-schooling after the new attendance guidance was released on 22 February. These have come from members of the public (no constituents) and they will be getting responses from officials.

REDACTED

Can I therefore ask that we send press lines and an exemplar letter response, once drafted, for the Minister to see? I appreciate that most of the letters haven't made their way down from POCMT yet and responses may need a bit of time to draft but if we were able to have the press lines by the end of the day that would be great.

For others on the copy list, I've attached the recent letter sent to Graham Stuart MP and accompanying advice from officials, the guidance itself, and an example of the type of correspondence we have received. Any queries, let me know.

All the best,

(junior officials name removed)

Assistant Private Secretary to Elizabeth Truss MP

From: CUNLIFFE-MILLER, Jobshare

Sent: 27 February 2013 12:12

To: WYE, Andrew; (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Heads Up: Flexi-Schooling - possible contentious issue

Thanks – I'm seeing Graham Stuart on Thursday next week (in the absence of Sarah whom he requested to meet). If there are other issues he's likely to raise (I'm assuming small rural schools and F40 type discussion), could you let me know.

Stuart

Jane Cunliffe & Stuart Miller

Deputy Director

Funding Policy Unit

Education Funding Group

From: HURDLE, Andy

Sent: 27 February 2013 14:10

To: JONES, Penny; ESD, Submissions; (junior officials names removed)

Cc: (junior officials names removed)

Subject: RE: Urgent action by 4pm - Flexi-Schooling submission to ministers

Colleagues – I envisage putting a version of this submission up today appended with a model draft answer to the standard letter we have received, together with some agreed press lines – on which some of you have already commented.

Andy

Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director

[Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division](#)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 27 February 2013 14:32

To: HURDLE, Andy; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: JONES, Penny; PS, Advisers; RUSSELL, David; SANDEMAN, Dugald; PS, Truss; JACKSON, Anne; JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Heads Up: Flexi-Schooling - possible contentious issue

Andy

[I think these lines are acceptable, particularly as they emphasise right at the start that home education is supported as an option.](#)

(junior officials name removed)

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 27 February 2013 15:05

To: JONES, Penny; HURDLE, Andy; ESD, Submissions; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: (junior officials name removed)

Subject: RE: Urgent action by 4pm - Flexi-Schooling submission to ministers

(junior officials name removed)

Most of this submission is about funding rather than home education as such, so our comments are limited.

In para 4 you might mention that it is section 7 of the Education Act 1996 which requires parents to secure suitable education as you describe.

In para 7 you may care to mention Erpingham Primary in Norfolk, which has emailed me today and has 16 of its 36 pupils on a flexi schooling arrangement.

In para 8 you should mention that Graham Stuart is also Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Home Education

In para 10 you may wish to mention that we have removed the Guidance on Elective Home Education from the DfE website temporarily because they have a paragraph which endorses the previous government's stance which you describe in the submission.

Finally, the submission doesn't seem to clearly ask the Minister to agree a recommendation.

There are also a number of typos which need looking at.

(junior officials name removed)

Independent Education and Boarding Team

From: HURDLE, Andy

Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 03:59 PM GMT Standard Time

To: JONES, Penny; (junior officials name removed)

Cc: RUSSELL, David; JACKSON, Anne (junior officials name removed)

Subject: URGENT: revised draft lines and letter response (model) on flexi-schooling

All – whilst (junior officials name removed) is working on the submission (thanks for quick comments) here are some refined lines and a draft model response (attached) for comment/clearance please. On the letter please make direct drafting changes. I've basically said, **REDACTED**

Andy

Andy Hurdle - Deputy Director

Behaviour & Attendance in Schools Division

From: (junior officials name removed)

Sent: 27 February 2013 17:56

To: PS, Truss; PRIVATE, LT

Cc: PS, Sec-OF-STATE; PS, Advisers;; HURDLE, Andy; JONES, Penny;; PS, Laws; PS, Nash; PS, Timpson; HALNAN, Penny-LAO; PERMANENT, Secretary; RUSSELL, David; MEEK, Stephen; JACKSON, Anne; SANDEMAN, Dugald; (junior officials names removed)

Subject: Submission on flexi-schooling and draft lines for press

Dear Minister,

Please see advice setting out our policy position on flexi-schooling and the draft press lines including a draft model of response we intend to send to most of the queries we have received on flexi-schooling.

(junior officials name removed)
School Attendance Team

Submission on flexi draft model response
schooling (3).doc and lines - flexi schoo