

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Thursday, 27 April 2023

## Home Education and Flexi-Schooling

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Note that the Scottish Government are due to issue new guidance on Home Education and Flexi-Schooling to all local authorities in 2024. The City of Edinburgh Council participated in the consultation around this guidance and have provided feedback on the draft document.

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## Home Education and Flexi-Schooling

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report sets out the current situation regarding Home Education and Flexi-Schooling within City of Edinburgh Council schools.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Councillors asked for information regarding the numbers of pupils flexi-schooled in City of Edinburgh schools, the impact upon wellbeing and attainment of those children, class management and the challenges for teachers and pupils arising from the operation of flexi-schooling.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The current Scottish Government guidance allows each local authority to decide whether to support flexi-schooling or not, and at the publication of the most recent guidelines in 2007, it was decided that Edinburgh would support this.
- 4.2 Currently, 182 children are flexi-schooled in Edinburgh schools each week. They average 1.25 days of flexi-schooling weekly. In Secondary, it is more likely that the pupil takes fewer subjects in school and is studying online for specific qualifications (A-levels, for example).
- 4.3 Parents and carers decide to flexi-school for a variety of reasons. Post pandemic, some families have stated that home learning is a benefit to all the family.
- 4.4 Class Teachers are not required to provide any work for the days/times when children are flexi-schooled. Parents/carers are required to provide the learning during these days/times.
- 4.5 Positive and negative impacts have been cited. In a very few cases, attainment has been negatively affected. If this happens, then the Headteacher meets with the parent to discuss this and plan a way forward. Teachers may have to support the pupil with re-engagement with, their learning, as inevitably they have missed

teaching input, and occasionally with their peers, as this can affect friendships, especially with younger children.

Some pupils flourish with flexi-schooling too. Some parents/carers of children with additional support needs feel that the mixture of home and school learning, suits their child best, and allows for improved family time.

Each case is individual and treated as such.

- 4.6 Appendix 1 shows the split across the city. In certain areas of the city, there are private companies providing Forest Schools, which leads to higher flexi numbers in particular schools. These schools all offer outdoor education within their curriculum.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Upon publication of the new Scottish Government guidance, due early 2024, we will form a short life working group, including Headteachers, Social Work and Parents/Carers who Flexi-School currently to review the City of Edinburgh Guidance.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There is no financial impact.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Consultation occurred with parents/carers, Headteachers and Social Work during the consultation by the Scottish Government prior to writing the new guidance and during our feedback to that draft guidance earlier this year.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 N/A

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Flexi-Schooling by School/Learning Community

## Appendix 1

Learning Community	School Name	Number of Flexi-Schooled Pupils	Numbers of Days Per School
Balerno	Dean Park Primary School	2	2
Balerno	Balerno Community High School	0	0
Balerno	Ratho Primary School	0	0
Boroughmuir	Bruntsfield Primary School	13	14
Boroughmuir	Buckstone Primary School	2	2.5
Boroughmuir	Boroughmuir High School	0	0
Boroughmuir	Canaan Lane Primary School	0	0
Boroughmuir	South Morningside Primary School	0	0
Broughton	Broughton High School	0	0
Broughton	Flora Stevenson Primary School	1	1
Broughton	Granton Primary School	2	3
Broughton	Stockbridge Primary School	1	1
Broughton	Ferryhill Primary School	0	0
Castlebrae	Castleview Primary School	1	2
Castlebrae	Castlebrae High School	0	0
Castlebrae	Newcraighall Primary School	0	0
Castlebrae	Niddrie Mill Primary School	0	0
Craigmount	Corstorphine Primary School	1	1
Craigmount	Fox Covert Primary School	1	0.5
Craigmount	Roseburn Primary School	4	6.5
Craigmount	Craigmount High School	0	0
Craigmount	East Craigs Primary School	0	0
Craigmount	Hillwood Primary School	0	0
Craigroyston	Forthview Primary School	1	4
Craigroyston	Craigroyston Community High School	0	0
Craigroyston	Craigroyston Primary School	0	0
Craigroyston	Pirniehall Primary School	0	0
Craigroyston	Rowanfield Special School	0	0
Currie	Woodlands Special School	1	1
Currie	Currie Community High School	0	0
Currie	Currie Primary School	0	0
Currie	Juniper Green Primary School	0	0
Currie	Nether Currie Primary School	0	0
Currie	Redhall Special School	0	0
Drummond	Abbeyhill Primary School	3	6
Drummond	Broughton Primary School	2	4
Drummond	Drummond Community High School	1	1
Drummond	Leith Walk Primary School	1	1
Firrhill	Braidburn Special School	0	0
Firrhill	Colinton Primary School	0	0

Firrhill	Firrhill High School	0	0
Firrhill	Bonaly Primary School	3	2.5
Firrhill	Pentland Primary School	6	9.5
Firrhill	Longstone Primary School	0	0
Firrhill	Oxgangs Primary School	0	0
Forrester	Broomhouse Primary School	0	0
Forrester	Carrick Knowe Primary School	1	1
Forrester	Forrester High School	1	1.5
Forrester	Gylemuir Primary School	0	0
Forrester	Murrayburn Primary School	0	0
Gracemount	Frogston Primary School	2	1.5
Gracemount	Gracemount Primary School	4	8
Gracemount	Gracemount High School	0	0
Gracemount	Kaimes Special School	1	3
Gracemount	St Crispin's Special School	0	0
Holy Rood	St Catherine's RC Primary School	1	2
Holy Rood	Holy Rood RC High School	0	0
Holy Rood	St John Vianney RC Primary School	1	1
Holy Rood	St John's RC Primary School	4	7
Holy Rood	St Ninian's RC Primary School	1	1
Holy Rood	St Francis' RC Primary School	0	0
Holy Rood	St Mary's RC Primary School (Leith)	0	0
James Gillespie`s	James Gillespie's Primary School	9	8.5
James Gillespie`s	Preston Street Primary School	3	4
James Gillespie`s	Sciennes Primary School	8	10
James Gillespie`s	Taobh na Pairce	8	5.5
James Gillespie`s	Tollcross Primary School	1	0.5
James Gillespie`s	Royal Mile Primary School	0	0
Leith	Hermitage Park Primary School	0	0
Leith	Leith Academy	0	0
Leith	Leith Primary School	0	0
Leith	Lorne Primary School	0	0
Leith	Pilrig Park Special School	0	0
Leith	Prospect Bank Special School	0	0
Leith	Craigentiny Primary School	2	2.5
Liberton	Edinburgh Secure Services (Howdenhall)	0	0
Liberton	Liberton High School	0	0
Liberton	Craigour Park Primary School	1	1
Liberton	Liberton Primary School	10	9
Liberton High	Gilmerton Primary School	1	3
Liberton High	Prestonfield Primary School	1	1
Portobello	Brunstane Primary School	0	0
Portobello	Duddingston Primary School	0	0
Portobello	Portobello High School	0	0

Portobello	Parsons Green Primary School	4	4.5
Portobello	The Royal High Primary School	1	1.5
Portobello	Towerbank Primary School	36	39
Queensferry	Echline Primary School	0	0
Queensferry	Kirkliston Primary School	0	0
Queensferry	Queensferry High School	0	0
Queensferry	Dalmeny Primary School	2	2.5
Queensferry	Queensferry Primary School	1	1
St Augustine`s	St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School	0	0
St Augustine`s	St Augustine's RC High School	0	0
St Augustine`s	St Cuthbert's RC Primary School	0	0
St Augustine`s	St Joseph's RC Primary School	0	0
St Augustine`s	St David's RC Primary School	2	2
St Augustine`s	St Margaret's RC Primary School	1	2
St Thomas of Aquin`s	Holy Cross RC Primary School	0	0
St Thomas of Aquin`s	St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School	0	0
St Thomas of Aquin`s	St Mark's RC Primary School	1	1
St Thomas of Aquin`s	St Mary's RC Primary School (Edin)	2	2
St Thomas of Aquin`s	St Peter's RC Primary School	8	12
The Royal High	Clermiston Primary School	0	0
The Royal High	Cramond Primary School	0	0
The Royal High	The Royal High Secondary School	0	0
The Royal High	Blackhall Primary School	1	2
The Royal High	Davidson's Mains Primary School	7	11
Trinity	Trinity Academy	0	0
Trinity	Trinity Primary School	2	2
Trinity	Wardie Primary School	5	5
Trinity	Victoria Primary School	0	0
Tynecastle	Balgreen Primary School	0	0
Tynecastle	Dalry Primary School	0	0
Tynecastle	Gorgie Mills Special School	0	0
Tynecastle	Stenhouse Primary School	0	0
Tynecastle	Craiglockhart Primary School	2	4
Tynecastle	Tynecastle High School	1	3
Wester Hailes	Canal View Primary School	0	0
Wester Hailes	Clovenstone Primary School	0	0
Wester Hailes	Sighthill Primary School	0	0
Wester Hailes	Wester Hailes High School	0	0