

POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS ON THE USE OF REDUCED TIMETABLES

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1.0 Purpose

This guidance is intended to support all maintained Blaenau Gwent schools, Pupil Referral Units and specialist provision settings, hereafter referred to as 'schools', in the appropriate use of reduced timetables (sometimes referred to as 'partial' or 'part-time' timetables), within the current legal and safeguarding framework for pupils deemed medically fit to attend school.

This guidance does not refer to the 'staggered' introduction of reception-aged pupil.

2.0 Summary

There is no statutory basis upon which to establish a reduced timetable, however, in exceptional circumstances schools may need to implement a reduced timetable in order to support a pupil who cannot attend school full-time for a short, agreed period.

To ensure that the application of a reduced timetable is time-limited and that re-integration to full-time education occurs swiftly and is appropriate to the pupil's personal needs, abilities and circumstances, BGCBC is sharing this guidance with all schools in respect of all pupils of statutory school age.

Schools and education settings have a statutory responsibility to ensure that all pupils on their roll receive a full educational entitlement and achieve good outcomes.

In very exceptional circumstances, where the needs of a pupil require it, (for reasons outlined below), it may be reasonable for schools to consider placing a pupil on a reduced timetable for a short period. As the pupil's ability to cope improves, unmet needs are addressed and the offer is adapted, the pupil would be re-integrated quickly into full-time education.

For the purposes of this guidance, a reduced timetable means by agreement with the parent/carers, school and the Senior Education Welfare Officer, that the number of hours spent in education is reduced for a time-limited period of usually no more than six weeks. Schools should consult with all appropriate agencies involved with a pupil when considering a reduced timetable.

Schools should take account and act upon the following guidance in order to continue to improve standards of educational attainment, safeguard the well-being of all children and young people and reduce the likelihood to the school of charges being made in respect of a failure to educate.

3.0 What is a reduced timetable?

All pupils are entitled to a full time education consistent with their Key Stage.

The WG recommendations are that the school offer for the taught curriculum on a weekly basis should be:

- Reception and Years 1 to 2 (children aged 5 to 7): 21 hours
- Years 3 to 6 (children aged 7 to 11): 23.5 hours
- Years 7 to 10 (children aged 11 to 15): 24 hours
- Year 11 (children aged 15 to 16): 25 hours

However [s19](#) of the Education Act 1996 permits a Local Authority to not provide full time education if it is considered in the best interests of the child.

If a school decides to implement a reduced timetable, then there must be a suitable reason to take such an approach as they could be found to have discriminated against a pupil (contrary to s15 of the Equality Act 2010) by a tribunal because the pupil has been denied full time education.

A reduced timetable is one which restricts a pupil's access to a full time curriculum. Careful consideration must be given by schools to the impact that reduced timetables will have on a pupil's entitlement, academic progression and any safeguarding issues that may arise as a consequence of a reduced timetable being implemented.

4.0 General Principles of a reduced timetable

4.1 In very exceptional circumstances there may be a need for a temporary reduced / part-time timetable to meet a pupil's individual need. For example, where a medical condition prevents full-time attendance in education and reduced / part time timetable is considered appropriate to support the pupil's medical needs at this time. This package should form part of a planned reintegration package. A reduced timetable should be supported by a timetable comprising blended learning led by and monitored by the school and that it is suitable for the individual pupil.

4.2 The Local Authority advice is that schools should keep detailed records of the learning programmes provided to the pupil and identify a teacher /teachers who will be responsible for marking completed work and providing feedback to the pupil.

4.3 A reduced / part-time timetable must not be treated as a long-term solution and any agreement must have a time-limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend the school on a full-time basis. (Timescales are outlined in 5.3 below) If despite a robust reintegration plan a child/young person does not respond positively to school, consideration may need to be given to reviewing the current provision. If this is the case

the school should call a meeting with parents, Senior Education Welfare Officer and other relevant LA Officers; e.g. Family First to discuss if other agencies can provide advice and support to address underlying need or Outreach Support to discuss strategies to support the pupil.

4.4 Where a pupil has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Individual Development Plan delegated then a reduced / part-time timetable should only be used in exceptional circumstances and agreement must be obtained from the ALN Manager. A pupil should not be considered for a part-time timetable because of their additional learning need as this may constitute discrimination.

4.5 For a pupil who is looked after (either through agreement under section 76 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 or a Care Order), has a care and support plan or is on the Child Protection Register, consideration of implementing a reduced timetable must be taken in the context of the significant vulnerability of the pupil and this should be discussed with relevant agencies who may have a view as to whether or not this should be agreed. In these cases, any reduced timetable must be agreed with the Corporate Parent and the Senior Education Welfare Officer.

5.0 Reduced timetables could be implemented due to any of the following: -

- A pupil having a short term medical condition
- A pupil in receipt of tuition for long term medical reasons
- A pupil who has been excluded from school and is being reintegrated back into school

5.1 When agreed by school's / education providers, Local Authority and parents/carers as part of a planned reintegration approach for a pupil who has not attended school / provision for a period of time due to a significant event such as illness, disability or mental health issues

5.2 Where a pupil has an on-going medical condition, which results in them being unable to attend school as a result of the condition, then schools can refer them to the Local Authority for tuition in line with Local Authority practice.

5.3 In limited circumstances reduced timetables are used as a method of managing a pupil at risk of exclusion. The Local Authority identify that this may only be chosen after other strategies have been implemented and exhausted. In this case the Local Authority advice is that these are for a maximum six-week period with regular reviews.

NB Where a reduced timetable is agreed, the offer or provision must also include blended learning through the school's hub to ensure continuity of learning. If the pupil does not have access to suitable technology to access this, the school would be expected to provide the equipment necessary to do so.

6.0 Implementing a reduced timetable

6.1 When considering placing a pupil on a reduced timetable, the school must:

- be satisfied that a reduced timetable is an appropriate intervention given the needs of the pupil. There must be a clear and evidenced rationale for considering a reduced timetable as an intervention aimed at supporting the needs of the pupil. A detailed assessment undertaken by the school with relevant evidence from an appropriate professional must be available to inform the decision in line with the rationale for a reduced timetable (e.g. if it is felt that a pupil requires tuition as they are not in a position to engage with the full curriculum due to significant medical/wellbeing concerns then this must be supported by appropriate advice from a CAMHS consultant prior to a referral being made for tuition, or if a pupil is struggling to access a full day in school then EPS advice should be sought as to appropriateness of a reduced timetable with the aim of reintegrating the pupil and enabling them to access a wider range of provision in school.
- formally notify the Senior Education Welfare Officer and where appropriate also alert the ALN Manager that this approach is being considered. Either Officer will link with relevant officers, i.e. EP, EWO, Social Worker to ensure agreement from the Local Authority
- clearly evidence all strategies that they have implemented to engage the pupil in a formal document such as a Pastoral Support Plan
- ensure ethical and informed permission has been secured from parent / carer. This will be underpinned by a written agreement with the parent / carer ensuring signed parental permission prior to the commencement of a time limited reduced timetable. If the parent does not agree, the reduced timetable arrangements cannot be implemented. In these circumstances the school must consider alternative interventions
- complete a detailed written action plan with clear objectives, agreed with the parents / carers and the pupil and involving a relevant Local Authority Officer, demonstrating a clear path of planned reintegration from part time to full time provision over a maximum of a six-week period, reviewed regularly.
- ensure that the written agreement / action plan is provided to the Local Authority within 2 days of its completion
- ensure that review information is provided to the Local Authority within 2 days of each review
- ensure the pupil has an active involvement in the process of planning, reviewing and evaluating the planned intervention
- ensure full time education is in place at the end of the agreed period or arrange a review meeting to identify the way forward. A maximum of one further period of six

weeks should only be agreed in exceptional circumstances with parental and Local Authority agreement. In this case, the school should revisit the plan to reflect the need for an extension.

- ensure that where the pupil has a Statement of Special Educational Needs/Individual Development Plan, a copy of the reintegration plan must also be sent to the Statutory ALN Team so that it can be included in the pupil's file. The Local Authority must agree to the intervention and a reintegration (reduced) timetable must not interfere with any additional support given to a pupil due to his/her educational needs.
- amend / undertake a risk assessment of the pupil's needs to assess the impact that a reduced timetable would have on the child / young person. It is essential that the pupil's welfare during any absence from school is considered.
- amend any other existing documentation as appropriate to reflect the reduced timetable
- ensure the blended learning offer is in place and that the pupil has the necessary equipment, IT infrastructure and skills to access the school's learning platform
- ensure parents / carers are clear they are taking responsibility for the pupil when he/she is not in school and guarantee that the pupil will be supervised off site and that this is recorded on the agreement
- provide termly returns to the Senior Education Welfare Officer indicating the numbers and names of learners who are accessing reduced timetables (in line with Local Authority practice for monitoring)

7.0 Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The school must:

- Notify the Senior Education Welfare Officer (and where necessary also notify the ALN Manager) that a reduced timetable is in place
- Meet with parent / carer to consider proposals
- Provide the pupil with sufficient and appropriately differentiated work to do for those hours they are not in school. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the work is marked; assessed and constructive feedback is given to the pupil.
- Establish robust arrangements for monitoring and regular review of the plan by a named member of senior staff.
- Ensure the written agreement and action plan is completed and shared with the Local Authority

- Ensure effective communication with parents or carers and key professionals with regard to progress towards the pupil's full re-integration to school.
- Record the pupil's attendance, using the appropriate registration codes, any sessions where the pupils are undertaking blended learning from home whilst not directly supervised by a school member of staff would be coded "C" i.e. an authorised absence
- Consult with Local Authority and provide appropriate information as outlined above to enable Local Authority to make an informed decision and consider the need for officer involvement (if not already in place) if an extension to the initial 6-week period is being sought

5.2 The Local Authority must:

- ensure appropriate monitoring and challenge by collecting termly returns
- agree to any request for a further extension to a part time timetable for it to continue beyond 6 weeks
- undertake quality assurance with schools to audit arrangements where part time timetables are in operation

Appendix 1

Reintegration (Reduced) / Part-time Timetable Process Flow chart

Step 1. School informs Senior Education Welfare Officer that it is considering implementing a reduced timetable and also inform relevant LA Officers; e.g. ALN Manager, Social Worker as required. Consultation with ALN Manager would be required if a pupil has a statement

Step 2. School gathers clear evidence in the form of robust assessment information to support the rationale for a reduced timetable.

Step 3. Local Authority discuss request and give agreement if pupil in receipt of additional funding/provision or is known to Social Services

Step 4. School meets with parents / carers.

Step 5. School completes written agreement and action plan and provides copy for Local Authority

Step 6. Named senior member of school staff to monitor and review at agreed periods and at the end of the 6-week period. Review information to be shared with Senior Education Officer and where appropriate ALN Manager.

Step 7. Meeting arranged to agree way forward

Step 8. A further period of 6 weeks may be considered in exceptional circumstances with agreement from the Local Authority. *

*If the Local Authority do not give agreement further discussion would be required with relevant officers before extending the reduced timetable period.

Appendix 2

Reintegration (Reduced) / Part-time Timetable Consent Form and Action Plan

Pupil Name:		UPN:	
Date of birth:		Gender: MALE/FEMALE	
School:		Year Group:	
FSM: YES/NO	CLA: YES/NO	EAL: YES/NO	ALN: YES/NO
If FSM: What arrangements that have been made to ensure child has access to lunch meals?			
If CLA: Who have proposals re amended timetable been discussed with and what were their view?		Local Authority:	
		Name of Social Worker:	
		Social Worker View:	
		Discussed with Senior Education Welfare Officer:	
		Senior Education Welfare Officer View:	
Is pupil on Child Protection Register/ Child In Need of Care and Support?		Name of Social Worker:	
		Social Worker View	
Have any safeguarding issues been highlighted and discussed with Safeguarding in Education Officer?		SIE Officer view:	
Is the pupil in receipt of ALN provision?		Discussed with ALN Manager:	
		ALN Manager View:	
Has the child had a part-time timetable before? YES/NO		If yes, when:	

Name of parents / carers:	
Name of lead person at school:	
Date when this has been discussed and agreed with head teacher by lead person at school:	
Name of head teacher:	
Name of lead LA Officer	
Name of EP:	
Name of EWO:	

Reason for reduced / part time timetable (Including evidence)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pupil having a short term medical condition • A pupil in receipt of tuition provision for long term medical reasons • A pupil who has been excluded from school and is being reintegrated to school

Date of meeting agreeing the part-time timetable:	
Persons Present at above meeting:	
Start date of part-time timetable:	
Number of hours in education each week	
Review date of part-time timetable:	
End date of part-time timetable:	

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Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time in school					

Objectives of part time /reduced timetable:

Reintegration Plan

Review date	
Outcome:	

I / we agree to my child being placed on a reduced / part time timetable for a time limited period in line with the Local Authority policy on reintegration timetables. This has been discussed with me in detail and I understand that this is an intervention to support the reintegration of my child into full time education.

I agree to take full responsibility for my child during the hours they are not attending school / education

Parent/carer signature:

Date:

School signature:

Date:

Other signatures (if required):

LA Officer:

Date:

Social worker:

Date: