



NOOSA FLEXIBLE SCHOOL

Community Handbook

Everything you and your family need to know about life at Flexi — in plain, simple words.

Call us

(07) 5455 3585 · 0458 335 412

Find us

2 Girraween Court, Sunshine Beach 4567

Visit us

noosa.flexi.edu.au





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi / Kabi Kabi peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land where we walk, learn and work together.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and to the young people who carry culture forward. We share this place with the glossy black cockatoos who call our campus home, and we walk in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples — always.

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SECTION ONE

What's Flexi all about?

A place where relationships matter most. No uniforms, no fees,
no big rulebook — just real people helping you learn and grow.

WELCOME

A place where relationships matter

At Noosa Flexible School (we call it **Flexi**), learning starts with relationships. When you feel safe, seen and valued, the rest follows.

We're an inclusive, supportive school where every young person gets the chance to do well — in their learning, with their friends, and in life. We take time to get to know you. We're not here to "fix" anyone. We're here to walk alongside you, build trust, and help you find your own path.

Lots of young people come to us thinking they can't do school. Then they find out they can. That's what Flexi is all about.

THE BASICS

What is a Flexi School?

Flexi Schools are made for young people who haven't had the best time at regular schools. We do things differently:

- **No uniforms.** Come as you are.
- **No compulsory fees.** Money is never a reason you can't be here.
- **No long list of strict rules.** Instead, we live by four simple principles.

GOOD TO KNOW

We're part of **Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Flexible Schools** — a family of schools right across the country that all share the same four principles and the same belief: everyone deserves a second, third or fourth chance.

TOOLS, NOT RULES

Our four principles

Instead of rules, we have four principles. They're the way we agree to treat each other — staff and young people alike.



Respect

We treat everyone with care and kindness. You look after the people around you, and they look after you.



Participation

You have a voice. Join in, share your ideas, and help make decisions about your own learning.



Honesty

Be real with us. You can say how you feel without being judged — that's how trust grows.



Safe & Legal

Everyone has the right to feel safe — in their body, their feelings and their mind. That comes first.

RELATIONSHIPS FIRST, LEARNING FOLLOWS

The answer is always relationships

At Flexi, relationships come before everything else. Our staff take real time to get to know you — what you like, what you're good at, and what's going on for you. When you feel truly seen and valued, learning gets a whole lot easier.

Our teachers see themselves as **co-learners** — walking next to you, not standing over you. We learn from you as much as you learn from us. Staff, young people and families all work together so everyone feels like they belong.

"The answer is ALWAYS relationships."

PAUL FLANDERS · FLEXI SCHOOLS PIONEER



**"A place where I feel safe, can be myself,
and finally belong."**

Five things we do differently

For nearly 40 years, Flexi Schools have done school in a way that builds trust and gets young people excited about learning again.



No big rulebook

There's no long list of rules waiting for you to slip up. We agree to work together using our four principles.



You're always welcome back

No one gets kicked out. If today was a hard day, that's okay — we start fresh and try again tomorrow.



We share the power

You help decide what and how you learn. We call it Common Ground — everyone has a voice and a say.



We understand tough stuff

Our staff are trained to understand the hard things you might be carrying, and we teach with that in mind.



We know you *can* learn

Young people want to do well. When something gets in the way, it's almost never about not wanting to — it's about needing the right support. We give you small classes, a flexible timetable, and learning built around what interests you.

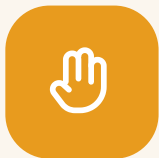
WHAT WE VALUE

Three things at our heart



Relationships

We build trust before anything else.



Respect

Everyone is treated with dignity.



Opportunities

New chances to learn, try and grow.

Adjustments we make for you

Everyone learns differently, so we change things to suit you. That might look like:

Smaller classes

More time with staff and a calmer space to focus.

Your own learning plan

Goals set with you, at your pace.
Success looks different for everyone.

Quiet spaces & breaks

Somewhere to reset when things feel like a lot.

Extra help & allied health

Support with reading, writing and wellbeing — right here on site.

SECTION TWO

Getting to & from school

How to get here and home again — GoCards, buses, and our own Flexi bus runs.



Your GoCard

You need a **GoCard** to ride public buses and trains. It's quick to set up.

- **Get your card.** Scan the QR code or head to the Translink website.
- **Top it up.** Add money so you've always got enough for your fare.
- **Keep it on you.** Have it ready every time you travel.

IMPORTANT ⚠️

Translink inspectors check buses and trains. If you can't pay your fare, you may be refused travel or given a fine. **No GoCard yet, or can't afford one? Just ask us — we'll help.**



Apply for your GoCard online

Scan the QR code, or visit translink.com.au to buy and top up your card.

BUSES

Getting here by bus

Public & CDC buses

CDC runs bus routes around our area.
You can apply for a CDC bus pass online.

Government school buses

Free school bus services run on set routes. Ask us if one comes near you.

Our Noosa Flexi buses

We run our own afternoon bus to help young people get home or catch a connecting bus.
Our runs go to:

Cooroy

Tewantin

Noosa Junction

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Our Flexi bus runs in the **afternoon only**. If your young person uses one of our bus runs, please have a chat with us so we can sort out the details together.



SECTION THREE

Our day

When to arrive, what the day looks like, and why every day here counts.

ATTENDANCE

Coming to school matters

Every day you're here is a chance to connect, learn, and just be you. The more you come, the more you get out of Flexi.

We get that some days are harder than others. Missing a day isn't something to feel bad about — what matters is coming back. **Every day is a fresh start.**

A QUICK FAVOUR

If your young person can't make it in, please give us a quick call or message on **(07) 5455 3585** or **0458 335 412**. It helps us look out for them.

OUR TIMETABLE

What a day looks like

Monday to Thursday

9:00	Arrive at school
9:15	PC (Pastoral Care)
9:45	Whole School Meeting
10:00	Lesson One
11:00	Morning Tea
11:30	Lesson Two
12:30	Lunch
1:00	Lesson Three
2:00	Home time

Friday

9:00	Arrive at school
9:15	Breakfast served & fun begins
9:45	Whole School Meeting
10:00	Lesson One
11:00	Morning Tea
11:15	Lesson Two
12:00	Home time

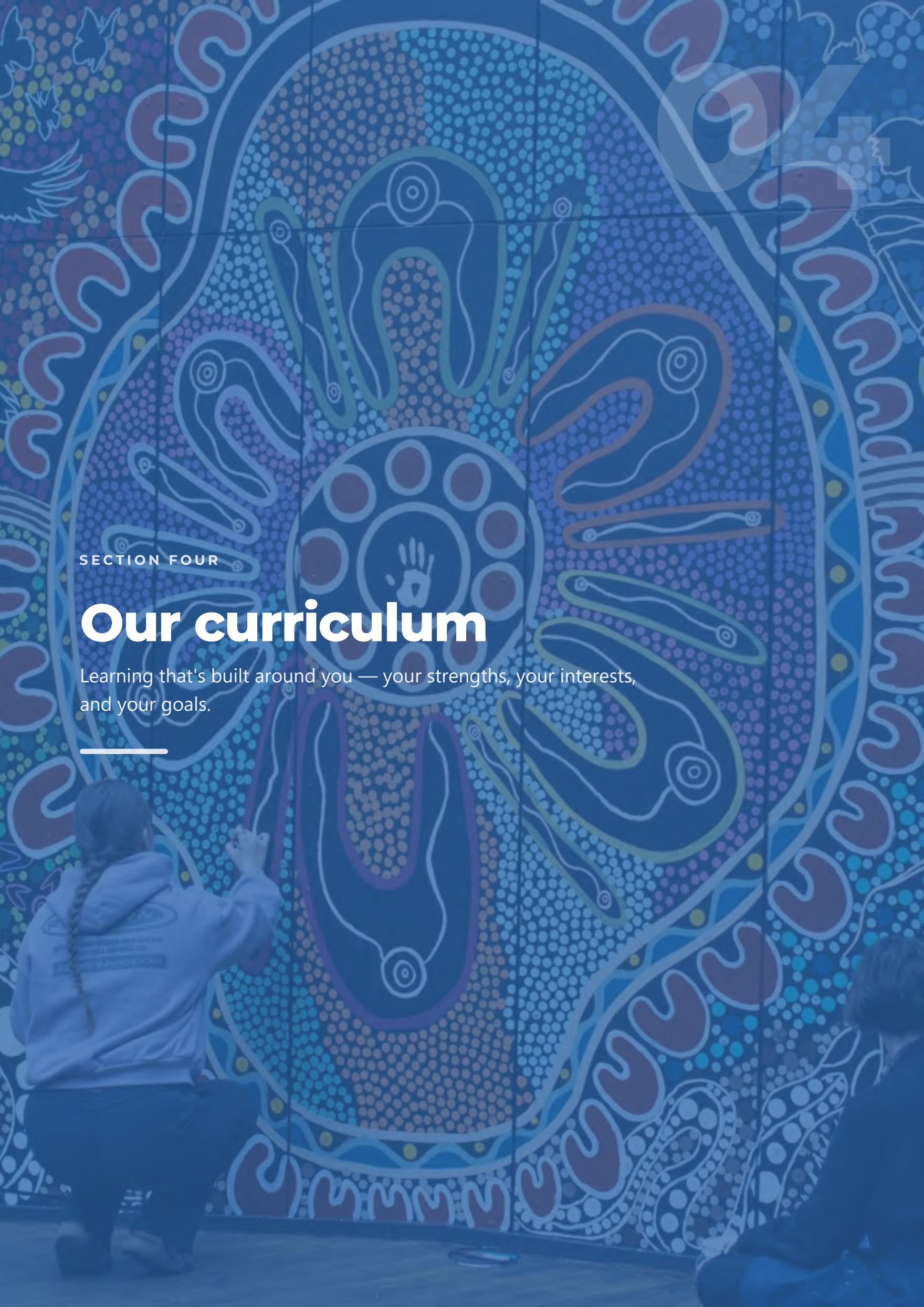
FRIDAY IS A SHORTER DAY

We start with a free breakfast and finish at lunchtime. A great way to end the week together.

SECTION FOUR

Our curriculum

Learning that's built around you — your strengths, your interests, and your goals.



Learning that fits you

We don't do one-size-fits-all. Your learning is built around what you're good at, what you enjoy, and what you need.

Whether you need extra support or you're ready for a bigger challenge, we meet you where you are. Lots of young people realise — often for the first time — that they really can learn, succeed and grow.

YOUR OWN PLAN

Everyone gets a **Personalised Learning Plan** — your own goals, set together with your teachers, at your own pace. Because success looks different for everyone.

SKILLS WE GROW

Four kinds of skills



Reading & writing



Numbers



Digital



Social & emotional

Pathways as you get older

Your QCE

Work towards your Queensland Certificate of Education, step by step.

Hands-on VET

Try real, practical courses that lead to skills and jobs.

Work & study

We help you get ready for whatever comes next — work, TAFE or training.



WANT THE FULL DETAIL?

Our separate **Curriculum Handbook** has everything about subjects, pathways and senior options. Ask any staff member for a copy.

SECTION FIVE

Allied health & extra help

We look after the whole you — not just your schoolwork. Here's who can help.

THE WHOLE PERSON

Looking after the whole you

How you're feeling matters just as much as your schoolwork. We help you build the skills and confidence to handle life inside and outside of school.

Sometimes you need a bit of extra support — and that's completely okay. Below are some trusted organisations that work with young people and families. You can always start by talking to a staff member you trust.

WHO CAN HELP

Support beyond school



Refocus

Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities, helping create safe, happy and resilient homes for kids and parents.

refocus.org.au



13YARN

A free, confidential phone line where mob can have a yarn with a trained Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander crisis supporter. Call 13 92 76.

13yarn.org.au



Lifeline Queensland

Part of a national network bringing hope and support to Australians doing it tough. Call 13 11 14, any time, day or night.

lifelineqld.org.au



Act for Kids

Provides professional therapy and support for children and families who have experienced, or are at risk of, harm.

actforkids.com.au



Family & Child Connect

Helps with all kinds of family and parenting challenges. They talk through your situation and find the support that suits you. Call 13 32 64.

familychildconnect.org.au



IFYS

Integrated Family & Youth Service — a wide range of support programs for young people, families and NDIS participants.

ifys.com.au

SECTION SIX

The cool stuff we do

Music, podcasts, films, festivals, camps and adventures. There's always something going on at Flexi.

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Make something, join something

There's so much more to Flexi than lessons. Here are just a few of the things our young people get up to.

Camps & Adventures

Sailing trips, snow camps and hinterland hikes — see more on the next page!

Noosa Flexi Music Magazine

A magazine all about music, made the Flexi way.

Flexifest

Our big festival of art, music and celebration.

Halloween

A spooky community event — dress up, decorate and celebrate together.

Interchangeable electives

A fresh line-up every term — Dungeons & Dragons, chess, equine therapy, surfing, sewing, gardening, mountain biking, fishing, chicken club and much more.

CAMPS & ADVENTURES

Out of the classroom

We learn heaps by getting out and trying new things together — it's called **Adventure Based Learning**. From sailing and snow trips to hinterland walks and colour runs, you'll build confidence, make memories and find out what you're capable of.





ART & CULTURE

**Revitalising the Yarning Circle with Mack
from Undumbi Culture.**

SECTION SEVEN

Staying safe

Your safety comes first, always. Here's how we keep you safe and what to do if something isn't right.



What is harm?

Harm is when someone hurts you or treats you badly. There are different kinds:

Physical harm

Someone hurting your body.

Sexual harm

Any sexual behaviour towards you that isn't okay.

Emotional harm

Words or actions that hurt your feelings or mind.

Neglect

Not having your basic needs looked after.

Harm can happen once, or more than once. It can happen in person or online. If you feel unsafe or you've been hurt, **our staff are here to help.**

OUR PROMISE

We have **zero tolerance** for child abuse. Every concern is taken seriously. When we're worried about a young person's safety, we have a legal and moral duty to contact the right authorities — and we always do.

IF SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT

Three simple steps



RECOGNISE

Notice when something has happened that makes you, or someone you know, feel unsafe — at school or away from it.



REACT

Talk to a staff member you trust, or one of our Child Safeguarding Officers. You don't have to figure it out alone.



REPORT

Our Head of Campus will report or refer it to the right people, and make sure you're supported.

SPEAKING UP

You have the right to feel safe

As a young person at our school, you have the right to be safe from inappropriate behaviour by **anyone** — staff, volunteers or other young people.

If you tell a staff member about behaviour you think isn't okay, **they will do something about it**. It doesn't matter who it's about. It's not about getting anyone in trouble — it's about keeping you safe.

Who you can talk to

Any staff member you trust and feel comfortable with. We also have specific **Child Safeguarding Officers** whose job is to listen and help:



CHILD SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Daniel Parkinson

Head of Campus · Noosa Flexible School

(07) 5455 3585 · 0407 379 051

daniel.parkinson@flexi.edu.au



CHILD SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Maddison Wittmann

Youth Worker · Noosa Flexible School

(07) 5455 3585

maddison.wittmann@flexi.edu.au

Contacts & support

If you ever need help — at any hour — these people are here for you:

Emergency — Police
000

Police Link
131 444

Family & Child Connect
13 32 64

Child Safety
1800 811 810

Our Regional Safeguarding Officers



SAFEGUARDING OFFICER ·
QLD/NT

Alicia Marshall
EREA Flexible Schools

0455 238 203
alicia.marshall@flexi.edu.au



SAFEGUARDING OFFICER ·
QLD/NT

Josh Healing
EREA Flexible Schools

0475 000 862
josh.healing@flexi.edu.au

Not happy with how we handled something?

If you feel we haven't kept our promise to keep you safe, please tell us. You can make a complaint by contacting our Safeguarding Officers above, or the school office on **(07) 5455 3585**. We'll listen and take it seriously.



Report something — it's anonymous

Scan the QR code or visit the school website. You don't have to give your name.

A law every adult should know

Since 5 July 2021, Queensland law makes it an offence for any adult **not** to report sexual offending against a child to police.

This means every adult has a responsibility to report sexual offences against children — unless they have a reasonable excuse not to. For this law, a "child" means a person under 16, or a person under 18 with an impairment of the mind.

WHAT'S A REASONABLE EXCUSE?

One example: the offence has **already been reported** to an appropriate authority — like Child Safety Services, a teacher or a principal — under other laws. In that case you don't need to report it again.

IF IN DOUBT, REPORT

If you think a young person isn't safe, has been harmed, or could be harmed, speak confidentially to one of our Student Protection Contacts. They'll help make a report.

SECTION EIGHT

Our code of conduct

How we all agree to be together — our working agreement, built on the four principles.

Our working agreement

At Flexi, the four principles guide how we treat each other — one to one and in groups. Everyone uses them to learn, build relationships, and sort out differences. We call this our **working agreement**.

They belong to all of us — young people and staff. They're how we make sure everyone's rights are respected, so this stays a place where it's safe to learn and be yourself.

Respect

Honesty

Participation

Safe & Legal

YOUNG PERSON

Your rights & responsibilities

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO

- Be safe
- Be treated fairly and justly
- Be treated with respect, courtesy and kindness
- Have your human rights and legal rights respected
- Reach your full learning potential in a safe environment

YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO

- Be an active voice and add positively to the community
- Work within the four principles
- Respect the rights of others
- Help others learn in a safe, supportive space
- Follow the school's directions, and own the impact of your actions

IN SHORT

Treat others with respect, courtesy and kindness — and represent your school well in the community. That's the working agreement.

**"Often young people come to us
thinking they can't learn — we
show them they can."**

Welcome to Flexi. We're so glad you're here.

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