

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Approved by:

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Children, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on [Statutory guidance - Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school guidance 2013](#) provided by the DfE.

Requests for LA support beyond 15 days can be made via the [Primary Securing Education Board](#)

3. The responsibilities of the school

The school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school for the first 15 consecutive days of absence.

After consulting with parents/carers, and if it is appropriate to do so, the class teacher will provide packs of work and links to appropriate websites and online content, which can be completed at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. These may include activities to be completed online using resources purchased by the school. School will ensure there is safeguarding contact on a weekly basis.

The class teacher will discuss with parents/carers the most effective way to communicate with both them and the child and how they will provide feedback on work completed. Any concerns that arise should be referred to a senior member of staff. When a child is due to return to school it may be necessary to draw up a Health Care Plan, this will be undertaken by the SENCo in consultation with parents/carers, the child and the class teacher. In a case where the absence is extending beyond 15 days a senior member of staff will make a referral to the Islington Primary Securing Education Board for consideration of support from New River College Medical for those children in Islington. Other local authorities have different procedures and requests should be made directly to the child's residing authority.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the child should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the child with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the child by providing: Medium term planning, programmes of study/schemes of work, appropriate resources, information relating to the child's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special educational needs.

Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the child remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.

Where a child has recurrent admissions or has a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the child to take into hospital with them.

Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the child themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the children and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the child who has been absent will play a significant role helping the child to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where children are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the child is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make arrangements for children with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the child. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both the school and the education provider will support and advise children and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of child's progress from the service provider during the child's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Headteacher or SENCO will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a child's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to be responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the local authority is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to the statutory guidance for local authorities: *'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (2013)'*

The School will work with the Home LA to provide continuing education to children who are prevented from attending school for more than 15 consecutive days through illness or a medical condition.

School will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting children with medical conditions Policy
- SEND Policy