



*'Believe, Excite, Succeed, Together'*

# **Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy**

**Approved by:** Full Governing Board

**Last reviewed on:** December 2024

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### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, 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 all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to the following;

The [Education Act 1996](#).

Supporting Pupils at School with medical Conditions; DfE 2017

The Equality Act 2010

Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs; DfE 2013

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Links to other school policies

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting pupils with Medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and safeguarding policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy
- Equality Policy

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities

### 4.1 The School

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The class teacher will liaise with the phase leader to send work home/ virtual lesson links and to monitor these arrangements in the first instance.
- When an absence is known to be more than 15 days, the school will request that home tuition is provided to the child through the Local Authority.
- When a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas that the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme for the pupil 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.
- Where a child may be absent from school for an extended period of time, our school will liaise with the educational provider (home tuition or hospital tuition) in order to provide as much information as possible, so that disruption to the child's education is as little as possible. We may provide the following information;
- Medium term planning, programmes of study/ schemes of work
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data
- Information relating to any special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Resources and materials
- Where practical, our schools will host review meetings with the alternative providers, healthcare professionals, parents/carers and where appropriate the child.
- Where children have recurrent admissions or have planned admission to hospital, the school will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

### 4.2 The Local Authority

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Lincolnshire local authority will become responsible for arranging a suitable education for the pupil.

The Local authority is responsible for the following:

- Arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision
- Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, Local Authorities should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.

- With planned hospital admissions, local Authorities should give the teacher who will be teaching the child as much forewarning as possible, including the likely admission date and expected length of stay. This allows them to liaise with the child's school and, where applicable, with the Local Authority about the programme to be followed while the child is in hospital. Local Authorities should set up a personal education plan, which should ensure that the child's school, the Local Authority and the hospital school or other provider can work together.
- Reviewing the provision offered regularly, to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
  - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or links to remote lessons from their school)
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

### **4.3 The Governing Body and Headteacher**

The Governing Body and Headteacher are responsible for the following;

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring a termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of the child are clear and understood by all.
- Notifying the Local Authority when a child is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

#### **4.4 The SENDCo**

The SENDCo is responsible for the following;

- Overseeing the arrangements for children who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying any necessary information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes and any special educational needs and/or disabilities with the alternative education provider.
- Supplying any necessary information about the child's curriculum with the alternative education provider e.g. medium-term planning, programmes of study/ schemes of work and any resources and materials.
- Liaising with the headteacher and staff members, to ensure a joined-up approach and smooth transition.
- Ensuring that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to the child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and /or medication taken has on the child.
- Liaising with the parents/ carers and pupils to ensure a sense of belonging and ensure continuity.
- Liaising with any outside agencies and organising any necessary review meetings.

#### **4.5 Teachers and Support Staff**

Teachers and support staff are responsible for the following:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupil's health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training (in line with 'Supporting Pupils with medical Conditions Policy').
- Ensuring that they have read and are following the child's individual health care plan.
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

## 5. Absences

Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.

Absence due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.

The school will provide support to children who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days, by liaising with the child's parents to arrange school work as soon as the pupil is able to access it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the child, family and relevant members of staff.

For periods of absence that are expected to last more than 15 school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the school SENDCo or headteacher will notify the Local Authority, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.

The school will continue to monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure that it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

A child unable to attend school because of health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the relevant healthcare professionals, even if the Local Authority has become responsible for the child's education. Continuity is important for children and knowing that they can return to their familiar surroundings and school friendships can help their recovery and their educational progress.

## 6. Reintegration into the School

### **The Local Authority**

When reintegration into school is anticipated, Local Authorities should work with the school (and hospital school, PRU/home tuition services if appropriate) to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school. As far as possible, the child should be able to access the curriculum and materials that he or she would have used in school. The Local Authority should work with our school to ensure that children can successfully remain in touch with the school while they are away.

Local Authorities should work with schools to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child. This may have to include extra support to help fill any gaps arising from the child's absence. It may be appropriate to involve the school nurse at this stage as they may be able to offer valuable advice. Those healthcare professionals involved, may also want to be aware that the child is returning to school, so that they can be prepared to offer any appropriate support.

Where the absence is likely to be lengthy, the reintegration plan may only take shape nearer to the likely date of return, to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill child in the early stages of their absence. While most children will want to return to their previous school routine at once, some will need gradual reintegration over a longer period.

## **The School**

Our school will work with the alternative providers, healthcare professionals, parent/carers and where appropriate the child, in order to plan a gradual and sensitive reintegration back into school.

We will ensure that the pupils and staff in school who have maintained contact with the child will play a significant role helping them to settle back into school.

It may be appropriate to plan part-time attendance where the child is medically unable to cope with a full day. This will be kept under review until the child is able to attend for full school days.

It may also be necessary to make reasonable adjustments for children with mobility issues returning to school by considering any health and safety issues, organising a risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary from any healthcare professionals.

Throughout the absence, we will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the child to maintain a sense of belonging. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. We will continue to offer any advice and support as appropriate, during the absence.

We will work closely with the alternative provider, to ensure that any reports and assessments made by them, are shared with the school to ensure a smooth transition upon reintegration.

### **7. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo, in consultation with staff. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.