Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Approved by:	Local Governing Board
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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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

It complies with the statutory guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

There will however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education from their normal school that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where a child can still attend school with some support

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

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

- A senior leader in consultation with the SENDCo and relevant staff will write an Individual Health Care Plan with the family, medical provider and the child.
- A senior leader or SENDCo will liaise with the family and any medical providers to ensure that the child receives appropriate work while they are unable to attend school. This could include sending paper-based work for completion at home, the loan of a laptop so that work can be completed online at home, or liaison with the relevant hospital school to ensure that work is transferred to them for completion.
- Teachers will be responsible for 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 without a clear evidence-based reason.

- The SENDCo will arrange a reintegration package once the student's Consultant/doctor tell us that this is the right thing to happen. The reintegration package will be planned in conjunction with the SENDCO, medical professionals, the student and the family. The package will be tailored to the needs of the individual and could include allocation of a Link Worker to facilitate ease of transition back to school, placement in the SEND Hub, alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met

- The SENDCo will ensure that staff are aware of the medical needs of a student, through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual's pupil's Health Care Plan, which will ensure they are aware of signs, symptoms and triggers and what to do in an emergency.

- The SENDCo will keep parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in school.

- The Headteacher and SENDCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, The Local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

Where an absence is likely to be longer than 15 days the Local Authority will be involved in arranging provision, the expectation from the school is that the Local Authority will:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.
- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be absent from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education the child receives is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of the individual children in arranging 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, 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. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Where appropriate, use electronic media such as 'virtual classrooms', to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision.
- Ensure 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 a child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Set up a Personal Education Plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school and other provider can work together.

- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (for example, Hospital School, Haybrook College, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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, including through digital resources
    - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Niamh Farrell. 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 pupils with medical conditions
- Special Needs and Disability Policy