Slough and Eton Church of England

Business and Enterprise College

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

Owner:	Catherine Goodyear
Ratified by Governing Body:	
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Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

KEY CONTACTS

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1. AIMS

At the heart of this policy are the words of Jesus, 'I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness'. Together with our school mantra of Work Hard, Be Nice, No Excuses and our CHRIST-like values, we aim to provide an environment where all members of the community are able to learn and thrive even if, because of health needs, they cannot physically attend school.

This policy aims to ensure that:

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

2. LEGISLATION & 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

Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

› It also based on guidance provided by Slough Borough Council under their Attendance Service

Procedural Guidance https://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/file/4621/school-attendance-procedural-guidance-2025-26

This policy complies with our funding agreement and Articles of Association.

3. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such provision. 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 the school makes 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.

- The Head of Year, in consultation with relevant staff (including the Medical Lead, the SENDCo, a Co-DSL), will write an Individual Health Care Plan with the child, carers/family, and medical provider(s).
- The Head of Year 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, liaison with the relevant hospital school to ensure that work is transferred to them for completion, or arranging online lessons through a third-party provider, i.e. Academy 21.

- The Head of Year will arrange a reintegration package once the student's doctors tell us that this is the right thing to happen. The reintegration package will be planned in conjunction with a Co-DSL), SENDCO, the school's Medical Lead, medical professionals, the student and their parents/ carers. The package will be bespoke to the needs of the individual and could include allocation of the Home School Link Worker to facilitate ease of transition back to school, a part-time timetable, placement in the Grace Centre, and the allocation of teaching rooms on the ground floor.

3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

Where an absence is likely to be longer than 15 days the Head of Year (in conjunction with the Medical Lead, the Attendance Lead, and a Co-DSL) will complete a Medical Needs Referral form to the Local Authority. It is expected that the Local Authority will be involved in arranging provision from this point. 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 Catherine Goodyear, Assistant Headteacher (Student Welfare). At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

5. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy
Accessibility plan