



St Paul's Church of England Primary School Children who cannot attend school because of health needs policy

Adopted by: Full Governing Body

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Named LA Officer responsible for the education of children with health needs:

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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

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

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Woodbridge Park Education Service (WPES) is commissioned by the LA to provide continuing education for children who are too ill or have a medical reason, which prevents them from attending school if it is going to be longer than 15 consecutive days. Schools are expected to provide support prior to this, usually by sending work home. As stated in the guidance 'Supporting Medical Needs in School' the main responsibilities are with schools with the support of medical professionals as required.

To make a referral use the following link:

<https://wpes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/home-medical-guidelines.pdf>

Supporting guidance can also be found in the "Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions in Schools" policy found here (under the downloads tab)

<https://fsd.hounslow.gov.uk/kb5/hounslow/fsd/advice.page?id=CuE7FE9Aqgl>

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school for the first 15 consecutive days of absence.

The school's Inclusion Coordinator will liaise with parents and external health professionals as necessary to understand the nature of the health needs, the treatment plan, the recuperation/recovery process, the location of the health care provision etc.

The school's Inclusion Coordinator will work with the class teacher to develop a home learning pack. This may include physical resources, as well as online resources provided through Google Classroom.

The class teacher is responsible for checking in with and providing feedback on a pupil's work in a timely manner – this may be through the Google Classroom communication stream or through a telephone/online chat. The class teacher will adapt this according to the needs of the pupil and in consultation with the Inclusion lead and parents.

The Inclusion Coordinator is responsible for monitoring these arrangements and ensuring that parents and relevant professionals are informed.

Where a pupil is ready to return to school, the Inclusion Coordinator will arrange a reintegration meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to secure an understanding of the child's ongoing health needs and any reasonable adaptation that may be needed to promote their ongoing recovery. This may require the creation of a health care plan and/or a risk assessment to outline how reasonable adaptations may be applied to support recovery over the short to medium term. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to share any concerns/anxieties that the pupil or their parent may have in respect of returning to school.

Where absence extends beyond 15 days, the Inclusion Coordinator will make a referral as set out above.

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 London Borough of Hounslow will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children, which is provided through Woodbridge Park Education Service (see above).

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.

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

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions