

# Children With Health Needs That Cannot Attend School Policy

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Reviewer:	L. Coffill
Governor Link:	Chair of Learning

# CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS THAT CANNOT ATTEND POLICY

East Barnet School, Chestnut Grove, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8PU

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## A. Statement of Principle

East Barnet School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into East Barnet school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education. This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils who cannot attend 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.

## B. Legislation and Guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'.

## C. Requirements

East Barnet School will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. If a student has missed the equivalent of 15 school days due to a medical assistance or chronic recurring illness determined by medical or CAMHS consultants, we will follow the procedures below.

1. The SENDCo/EWO/Year Head will meet with the parents/carers and medical or CAMHS consultants to discuss what provision the student needs to continue to access school.

Arrangements could include:

- A bespoke timetable in school
- Sending work home
- Attending a school hospital
- LSA visiting a student at home
- Use of the student hub
- Therapeutic Interventions
- Alternative Times of the day to meet the student's needs
- Referrals to external providers e.g. BICS
- Additional Medical Services

A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion and signed by the school/parents/careers.

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as 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.

2. Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the hospital teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the learner should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the learner 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.

3. If the student's medical professionals advise that the student is too unwell to attend school with reasonable adjustments in place, then the Deputy Headteacher will complete a referral to Meadway 2- Home tuition service.

**The Governing Body and Head Teacher are responsible for:**

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the 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 pupils are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

**The Deputy Headteacher and/or SENDCo is responsible for:**

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA.

### **Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:**

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' 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 without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

## **D. Absences**

1. Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
2. Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
3. The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with 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 pupil, their family and relevant members of staff. Where appropriate technology will be used to allow the student to participate in educational environments as much as possible.
4. For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, the attendance officer will notify the HoY/SENDSCO who will set up a meeting with the relevant parties.
5. Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with professionals and parents to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
6. The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

7. The school will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where: The pupil has been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age; and Neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age. The school will seek, where appropriate guidance from the local authority regarding whether or not it is appropriate to engage with the EHCP process, particularly where insufficient evidence of the graduated approach exists.
8. A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school's medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the pupil's education.

## **E. Support**

### Reintegration:

- The school will work with all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the learner themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.
- The school will ensure that the learners and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the child who has been absent will play a significant role helping them to settle back into school.
- The school will accept part-time attendance where learners are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the learner is able to attend for full school days. All reduced offer arrangements will be recorded on the Olympus Trust Central system and schools will provide details of these arrangements as required
- The school will arrange for learners 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. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the school budget or via review cluster funding where appropriate
- Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the learner. 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 learners and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

- The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of learner progress from the Hospital Education Service and a folder of work on return to school
- The Headteacher, SENCO or Pastoral Lead will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a learner's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.
- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil. The LA expects the school to support pupils with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to pupils' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHPs), in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods: School newsletters, Emails, Invitations to school events, cards or letters from peers and staff.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:
  - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member;
  - Access to additional support in school;
  - Online access to the curriculum from home;
  - Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms;

- Places to rest at school;
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

## **F. Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher regularly and at every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## **G. Links to Other Policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy
- Supporting pupils with medical needs policy.