

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School



Redbridge Community School

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1. Aims

Redbridge Community 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 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 Local Authority, 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 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 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'.

3. The responsibilities of the school

Initially, the school will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Once it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for more than 15 days the Lead Attendance Manager and SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. The inclusion team at Southampton City Council will be informed. A meeting will be held with parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital and communication with parents will remain a priority for the school throughout. A plan will be

drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion and the plan will be signed by school and Parents / carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child.

Work will be prepared by class teachers and arrangements could include sending work home, online provision, attending a hospital school or alternative provider. Every effort will be made to deliver a provision similar to one they would receive if they were in school. The school would also endeavour to enable the pupil to remain in touch with school life as much possible through remote contact, newsletter and involvement with events. This arrangement will be monitored throughout. The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with guidance from medical professionals and support from external agencies. Where necessary, the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met. The school will perform, where appropriate, a risk assessment and consider what reasonable adjustments should be made in accordance with the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions policy.

The school 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.
- 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.

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.

If the Local Authority makes arrangements;

The school would endeavour to meet the needs of an absent pupils education and school would make suitable arrangements for provision, however if this were not to be the case, assistance would be sought from the Local Authority.

The school would contact the Southampton City Council for further assistance.

In cases where the Local Authority makes arrangements, the school agree to work collaboratively with the Local Authority to ensure the most suitable provision is in place for the child and communication with parents/carers and the pupils would be maintained.

Absences

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

Absences 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 pupils who are absent from school because of illness for any period by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to work from home or engage in a 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.

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.

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 as being 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. 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 even if the LA has become responsible for the pupil's education.

Support for pupils

- 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, professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil. It is expected that the school 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, in accordance with the managing medical conditions and first aid 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 any alternative 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 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.

- If necessary and 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.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be updated and approved by Governors annually or in light of regulatory changes. Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting pupils with additional health needs, and to parents and pupils themselves.

Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses. Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Home tuition: the school will provide appropriate provision after consultation with the pupil, parent/carers and medical professionals

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Managing Medical Conditions and First Aid Policy
- Attendance policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy