

# Northenden Community School

## Children who are unable to attend school Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Responsible Body
14/06/2023		P.Marks	Full Governing Body

### Introduction

Northenden Community School aims to support the local authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to health 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.

### Aims

We aim to, whenever possible, ensure that pupils receive their education in the most effective way depending on their health needs. The provision will be aimed at reintegrating 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 attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

We will ensure that each child's need is considered individually to ensure the best possible outcome.

### Named people responsible for policy's implementation

Interim Head teacher (until Easter) then Peter Marks (Head Teacher), Andrea Gray (deputy head and SENDCo).

### Local authority duties

This section is in accordance with the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, 2013.'

#### Local authorities must:

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.

#### Local authorities should:

Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away 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 children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

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Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

### **Provision for siblings**

When treatment of a child's condition means that his or her family have to move nearer to a hospital, and there is a sibling of compulsory school age, the local authority into whose area the family has moved should seek to ensure that the sibling is offered a place, where provision is available, for example, in a local mainstream school or other appropriate setting.

### **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: a tuition service that acts as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.

Medical PRUs: local authority establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **The Governors are responsible for:**

Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their health 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 health needs.

Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all.

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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.

#### **The Head Teacher is responsible for:**

Working with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.

Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.

Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.

Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the local authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.

Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.

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.

Providing reports to the Governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.

Notifying the local authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

Also make sure that school staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way.

Contact the school nursing service in the case of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at school, but who has not yet been brought to the attention of the school nurse.

#### **SENDCo is responsible for:**

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 Head Teacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.

Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.

Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the local authority.

Ensuring that the needs of children with EHC plans are being met as much as possible including those who are unable to attend due to illness.

Ensuring easy communication between home and school.

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Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.

#### **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 before undertaking any administration of medicines or therapies.

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.

#### **Parents Should:**

The prime responsibility for children's health needs lies with the parents. Parents have responsibility over their child's medication and should provide the school with the necessary details on how it should be administered and how their child should be cared for.

Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.

Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child and be a key part of the review/creation of Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) if necessary.

Carry out any actions they have agreed as part of the IHCP.

Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.

Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's health needs.

Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

Parents will inform the school of any medical condition by way of GP/medical practitioner letter explaining the child's medical condition

Parents will supply school with appropriately prescribed medication, where the dosage information and regime is clearly printed by a pharmacy on the container and details included inside the container

Parents will ensure that medicines to be given in school are in date and clearly labelled

Parents will cooperate in training their children to self-administer medicine if this is appropriate.

#### **Pupil should:**

Provide information about how their condition affects them.

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Be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan.

#### **The school nurse will:**

Be responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school.

May support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training.

School nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs; for example, there are good models of local specialist nursing teams offering training to local school staff, hosted by a local school.

#### **Managing Absences**

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 and discuss the most appropriate medium for this school work.

For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the named person with responsibility for pupils with health needs will notify the local authority, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.

Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the local authority to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.

For hospital admissions, the Head teacher/SENDCo will liaise with the local authority regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.

The local authority will set up a personal education plan (PEP) for the pupil which will allow the school, the local authority and the provider of the pupil's education to work together.

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 by a 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. 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 Medical Officer, even if the local authority has become responsible for the pupil's education.

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#### **Support for Pupils.**

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 Head teacher/SENDCo.

#### **Access to additional support in and out of school.**

Online access to the curriculum from home will be provided where possible.

Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms where possible.

Places to rest at school.

School will submit a request for access arrangements to manage anxiety, fatigue or any other medical condition that will impact the child's ability to perform in the end of key stage assessments.

If a child is in a year group where formal examinations and assessments are taking place, relevant information will be provided to the alternative provision if necessary.

#### **Reintegration**

When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the local authority.

The school will work with the local authority when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.

As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.

Where appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil.

The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.

For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.

The school is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

#### **The reintegration plan will include:**

The date for planned reintegration, once known.

Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.

Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil.

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Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.

Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.

A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.

The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

#### **Information sharing**

It is essential that all information about pupils with health needs is kept up-to-date.

To protect confidentiality, all information-sharing techniques, e.g. staff notice boards, will be agreed with the pupil and their parent/carer in advance of being used.

All teachers, TAs, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures, via the agreed procedures.

Parents will be made aware of their own rights and responsibilities regarding confidentiality and information sharing.

#### **To help achieve this, the school will:**

Ensure this policy and other relevant policies are easily available and accessible.

Provide the pupil and their parents with a copy of the policy on information sharing.

Ask parents to sign a consent form which clearly details the organisations and individuals that their child's health information will be shared with and which methods of sharing will be used.

Consider how friendship groups and peers may be able to assist pupils with health needs.

When a pupil is discharged from hospital or is returning from another education provision, the school will ensure the appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to the school. The named member of staff will liaise with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

#### **Record keeping**

Written records will be kept of all medicines administered to pupils

Proper record keeping protects both staff and pupils and provides evidence that agreed procedures have been followed.

#### **Training for staff**

Staff will be trained in a timely manner to assist with a pupil's return to school.

Once a pupil's return date has been confirmed, staff will be provided with relevant training before the pupil's anticipated return.

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Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required.

Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are confident in their ability to support pupils with additional health needs.

Parents of pupils with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the Safeguarding policy and KCSIE 2024 guidance