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# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

## Policy Creation & Review

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## CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

### 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 the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#), the Equality Act 2010 and Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

### 3. The responsibilities of the school

#### 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

The school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will begin by the Inclusion Lead making contact with the family to discuss the situation and agree on the most suitable approach.

In the majority of cases this will follow our remote learning policy and can include provision of devices and connectivity to enable online learning including using Zoom to access live lessons where possible.

Alternatively this may be via hospital schools, and in this situation the school will liaise with this provision.

In both circumstances the school will also discuss with the family ways to keep the pupil connected to friends and events in school (newsletters, pastoral Zoom calls with friends etc).

A phased reintegration plan will be put into place when the child is ready to start accessing on-site schooling. Consultation of the format of this will take place with the pupil (if old enough), parent/carers and any medical or support partners.

#### 3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the London Borough of Newham will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Therefore if a pupil is off school for more than 15 days, the school will notify the Local Authority who will contact the family.

When a local authority arranges alternative education, that education should begin as soon as it is possible, and at the latest by the sixth day of the child's absence from school. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, local authorities must make suitable, timely arrangements, unless exceptional circumstances apply, in advance to allow provision to begin from day one.

Provision could include:

- Outreach 1:1 teaching in your home or the community
- Virtual learning (if your child is at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4)
- Access to small supported teaching groups
- Access to teaching and learning throughout a hospital stay
- A mix of both based on your child's needs.
- See [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - GOV.UK](#)

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

#### **4. Funding**

Alternative provision for children with medical needs is funded from local authorities' high needs budgets. However, where a child remains on the roll of their home school but requires a period of time in alternative provision due to their health needs, the local authority and home school may wish to consider the transfer of a portion of the school's funding associated with that child to the alternative provision. This would ensure that the funding follows the child. This arrangement would cease when the child is reintegrated back to their home school or are no longer on the roll of the home school. When a child permanently leaves the roll of their home school and is admitted to another school or alternative provision, a mandatory funding adjustment is made by the local authority. Details of these adjustments are set out in the 'Redetermination of budgets' sections of the 'Schools operational guide' on the web page entitled 'Pre16 schools funding: local authority guidance' for the relevant financial year, a link to which can be found in the following web page: Local authorities: [Local authorities: pre-16 schools funding - GOV.UK](#) . More information can be found on [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - GOV.UK](#) .

#### **5. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Inclusion Lead at every review, it will be approved by the Curriculum Committee who have been delegated the responsibility by the full Governing Body.

#### **6. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions