

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy



We can and we will
GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Mission Statement

At Glebe school, we believe in an ethos that values the whole child. We strive to enable all children to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

Introduction

Children and young people may miss school due to health reasons. This may be illness (physical or mental health), injury or a planned admission to hospital. The health problem may be time-limited or a child may have a long-term condition.

Most absences from school will be for minor, short-term health problems and absences from school will be short and infrequent. The child's school would arrange any educational support relating to such absences.

However, some children may miss school for longer periods due to health reasons. This document sets out our policy for the alternative education arrangements of those children.

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

Legislation and Guidance

- This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/19).
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/19>
- It also based on guidance provided by our local authority (Hillingdon).
<https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/30387/The-education-of-children-and-young-people-unable-to-attend-school-because-of-additional-health-needs>

At Glebe Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of

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Education Guidance and work with Hillingdon Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will, however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where the child can still attend school with some support. Where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school, we would not expect the Local Authority to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.

Circumstances in Which Alternative Education Will be Commissioned by The Local Authority

This policy applies to children and young people:

- Who are of statutory school age **and**
- Who are permanently resident in Hillingdon (including children who attend schools outside the borough) **and**
- Who are not in school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative due to ill health **and**
- Where the health need and necessity for absence has been validated as necessary by a medical doctor **and**
- Will not receive a suitable full-time education unless the local authority makes arrangements for this.

Health problems include physical illnesses, injuries and clinically defined mental health problems. Suitable medical evidence will be required. This would include details of the health problem, how long the condition is expected to last and the likely outcome, and a treatment plan. This must be provided by a suitable medical professional, normally a hospital consultant. However, where specific medical evidence is not available quickly, the local authority will liaise with other medical professionals (eg the child's GP), so that provision of education is not delayed. Normally, the medical professional cannot be privately commissioned and must be UK based.

This policy applies to pupils at schools of all types (maintained schools, Academies, Free schools, special schools, independent schools). It also applies to children attending alternative provision and children who are not on a school roll. It applies whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently. Arrangements for alternative education will not normally be made for children and young people below or above compulsory school age.

Arrangements for alternative provision will be made as soon as it is known that a child has not attended **school for 15 days for health reasons or as soon as it is clear that a health-related absence from school will be 15 days or longer, verified by a medical doctor. The 15 days may be consecutive or cumulative. The provision will commence as quickly as possible.**

There may be circumstances in which suitable alternative education is already in place eg if the school has made arrangements for a pupil or the child is receiving education at a hospital school. In such circumstances, the local authority will intervene only if it has reason to think that the education provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient.

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If a child is in hospital in a different borough for a long period, education provision would usually be arranged through the local education service, with the cost being met by the borough in which the child lives.

Expectations of the Local Authority

Where the Local Authority is involved in arranging provision, the expectation from the school is that the LA will

- 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.
- 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 and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- 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 limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.
- Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, maths and science. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Where appropriate, use electronic media – such as 'virtual classrooms', learning platforms and so on – to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child's health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).
- Ensure that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to a child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Set up a personal education plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school or other provider can work together.
- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service - CAMHS, National Health Service -NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.

Expectations of the School

In cases where the Local Authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil;
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;

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- 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.

Written: June 2020

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