



## **Children with Health Conditions Who Cannot Attend School Policy**

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<b>Approved By:</b>	Director of Education - Secondary	<b>Date:</b>	September 2024
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## 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 (LA)

## Hamwic Entitlement



To ensure that pupils in Hamwic Trust have the best opportunities schools will-

- Ensure there is a policy in place that sets out the expectations, roles, responsibilities, processes and systems in place to support children with medical conditions that cannot attend school
- Ensure all staff are familiar with the contents of the policy and the government guidance (as listed above)
- Ensure staff consider a bespoke package in responding to a child's need
- Ensure robust processes are in place to monitor the effectiveness of the policy
- Use our best endeavours to meet the needs of all children

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our Local Authorities:

- Southampton City Council: [School attendance and support \(southampton.gov.uk\)](http://southampton.gov.uk)
- Portsmouth City Council: [School attendance - Portsmouth City Council](#)
- Dorset City Council: [School attendance and absence - Dorset Council](#)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council: [School attendance | BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](http://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

## 3. Responsibilities of the School

Initially, the school will try to make arrangements to offer education for children with health needs who cannot attend school; the School Leader will be responsible for the oversight of the remote offer and for maintaining contact with the pupil and parents. The arrangements may include making work available in line with the remote learning policy, sending work to a hospital school or an agreed part-time timetable. Provision will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The school will:

- Consult with parents/carers and any relevant professionals about these arrangements.
- Work closely with the parents/carers or organisations to ensure that any possible reintegration back into school is appropriate for the child.

- Ensure that close contact is maintained between the school and the child, being particularly mindful of the need to ensure the pupil maintains some contact with peers, so they continue to feel part of their class/tutor group.

#### 4. Responsibilities of the Local Authority

Where a pupil cannot attend school because of health needs, unless it is evident at the outset that the pupil will be absent for 15 or more days, the school will initially follow the usual process around attendance and mark the pupil as ill for the purposes of the register.

The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period shorter than 15 days. This may include providing pupils with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

In accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more (either consecutive or over the course of a school year) because of their health needs, the local authority should:

- be ready to take responsibility for arranging suitable full-time education for that pupil; and
- arrange for this provision to be in place as soon as it is clear that the absence will last for more than 15 days.
- 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.

The school will inform and work collaboratively with the local authority to support these responsibilities. This will include:

- Providing the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs.
- Working collaboratively with the local authority, relevant medical professionals, relevant education providers, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil, to identify and meet the pupil's educational needs throughout the period of absence and to remain in touch with the pupil throughout.
- Collaborating with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
- Along with the local authority, regularly reviewing the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Sharing information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, working with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence).
- Where possible, allowing the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this.
- Helping to make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

#### 5. Reintegration after extended absence (15 days or more)

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources.
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits.



When a pupil is considered well enough to return to full time education at the school, the School Leader or someone designated by them, will develop a reintegration plan in partnership with the appropriate individuals/organisations. This will:

- Be tailored for each child returning to school, to ensure extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

## 6. Safeguarding arrangements

It is vital that School Leaders and DSLs take a keen interest in the safeguarding of pupils absent from school, recognising that they are vulnerable children. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure pupils are monitored to keep them safe from harm.

The following list of protective measures is not exhaustive, the first three measures are expected as a minimum:

- a) Regular contact is made with the child, this includes talking to, and sight of the child.
- b) Any child using a computing device will be reminded about online safety. Where a school provides a device, schools will check that the appropriate controls are in place.
- c) The child knows who their safe adult is in school and how to contact them.
- d) Remote access is provided to some assemblies and PSHE lessons that support safeguarding messages – particularly regarding consent and safe/appropriate touch.
- e) School makes regular contact with agencies who visit and have sight of the child.

## 7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by HET Managed Services.

## 8. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Accessibility plan
- Remote learning policy
- Safeguarding policy