

# **Brookside Primary School**

Ellesmere Port, Cheshire



## **Children with Health Needs who cannot Attend School Policy**

Updated March 2025

### **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 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 and DfE Statutory Guidance (2013). It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

### **3. Responsibilities of the school**

At Brookside 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 Education Guidance and work with Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable fulltime education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream 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. More information can be found in the CWAC Policy on access to education for children and young people with medical needs

#### **3.1 If the school makes arrangements**

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will involve:

- Initial contact being made by the SENCo to establish the child's individual medical need and potential barriers to attending school.

- Arrangements being agreed and established e.g. sending work home (including the provision of virtual learning through school's identified learning programmes), education offsite (including through hospital schools) or additional adult support within school (in line with an individual health care plan as appropriate).
- On-going discussions between families, school and health providers to monitor agreed arrangements and identify when/ how pupils can be reintegrated back into school (where appropriate).
- Liaising with the SENCo for pupils whom also have Special Educational Needs (SEN).

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Cheshire West and Chester will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. 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
- 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:
  - o 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
  - o 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)
  - o Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
  - o Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan • Supporting pupils with medical conditions • SEND policy