



Grove Vale Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy.

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Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

Every child should have the best possible start in life through a high-quality education, which allows them to achieve their full potential. A child who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peer group, including a broad and balanced curriculum. As far as possible, children with health needs and who are unable to attend school should receive the same range and quality of education as they would have experienced at their home school.

'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' January 2013

Statement of intent

Grove Vale Primary School aims to support the Local authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, 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. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate 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 LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Aims

Our aims are to

- identify, at the earliest possible stage, any pupil whose education may be disrupted because of their health and medical needs;
- take steps to ensure that they continue to receive a high-quality education; and contribute to this through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum suitable to the pupil's age and ability, tailored to take account of their health and medical needs.

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.

This list is neither prescriptive or exhaustive

Legislation and Guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018



- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- Promoting Children's Mental Health within Early Years and School Settings. June 2001.
- Standard 9 & Disability Act 2004

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Access Plan

Roles and Responsibilities

The local authority

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The school has a duty to support the LA in doing so.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents/carers know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.



- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Working with the governing board to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents/carers 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/carers, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- 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 annual reports to the governing board on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

Named member of staff responsible for pupils with healthcare needs

The named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs is currently Mrs Sarah Pickett. They are responsible for:

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- 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 headteacher, education providers and parents/carers 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/carers, and the LA.



Teachers and support staff

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.
- 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/carers informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

Parents & Carers

Parents & carers are expected to:

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

To promote this Grove Vale Primary School will:

- encourage parents/carers to be full partners and keep them informed about their child's educational programme and performance;
- ensure parents/carers are fully involved in their child's reintegration to school;
- provide information for pupils and parents/carers in a clear and understandable form;
- encourage the child to express their views and take these into account.

Managing absences

- Parents/ Carers are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- 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/carers 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.
- 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 LA.



- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
- When absence is expected to be longer than 15 days, a referral will be made to The Albright Education Centre. Albright Education Centre provides education to Sandwell pupils who are unable to leave home because of ill health. Tutors provide one-to-one teaching in the home, focusing on core subjects such as English or Maths or therapeutic subjects if this is more appropriate.
- For hospital admissions, the appointed member of staff will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.
- The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers accurately to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.
- 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 school's medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the pupil's education.

Support for Pupils

Pupils also have the right to be involved as far as practicable in decisions which affect their education.

- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents/carers and, where appropriate, the pupil.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHPs), in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using but not limited to the following methods:
 - School newsletters
 - Emails
 - Invitations to school events
 - Cards or letters from peers and staff

Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

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 named staff member
- Access to additional support in school
- Online access to the curriculum from home
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms
- Places to rest at school
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

Reintegration

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



- The school will work with the LA 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.
- If 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 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/carers 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/carers 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.
 - 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.
 - Follow up procedures.
- The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.
 - Following reintegration, the school will support the LA in seeking feedback from the pupil regarding the effectiveness of the process.

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 noticeboards, will be agreed with the pupil and their parent/carer in advance of being used, in accordance with Policy.
- All teachers, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures.



- Parents/carers 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/carers with a copy of the policy on information sharing.
 - Ask parents/carers 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 other 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

In accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, written records will be kept of all medicines administered to pupils.

Training

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

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

Examinations and assessments

The named member of staff will liaise with the alternative provision provider over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate.

Relevant assessment information will be provided to the alternative provision provider if required.

Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for pupils with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as early as possible.



Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the governing board and revised as necessary. We will use this review process as a look for improving our provision.

Any changes to the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting pupils with additional health needs, and to parents/carers and pupils themselves.

