

London Borough of Hounslow
Education of Children Unable to
Attend School Due to Medical Ill
Health Policy (Section 19)



London Borough
of Hounslow

Introduction:

This policy outlines the commitment of Hounslow to ensure that children and young people who are unable to attend school due to additional health needs receive suitable and effective education. This policy aligns with the principles set out in relevant national legislation, including the Section 19 of Education Act 1996, Section 100 Children and Families Act 2014, The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, Equality Act 2010 and Alternative Provision Statutory Guidance (2013).

Scope of the Policy:

This policy applies to all children and young people of compulsory school age who are residents of Hounslow and are unable to attend their registered school for a period exceeding 15 school days, either consecutively or cumulatively a period exceeding 15 school days, either consecutively or cumulatively or over the course of a school year, due to their health needs.

Aims and Objectives:

1. To provide a framework for identifying and supporting children with additional health needs who are unable to attend school.
2. To ensure that children receive a suitable and tailored education that meets their needs, taking into account their health condition and individual circumstances.
3. To work collaboratively with parents, schools, health professionals, and other relevant agencies to support the education and well-being of the child.
4. To ensure a smooth reintegration into school or education setting when the child is able to return.

Identification and Referral Process:

Identification: Schools are responsible for identifying students who are unable to attend due to health needs. This will be based on medical evidence, professional reports and observed patterns of absence.

Where the setting identifies a decline in attendance based on anxiety and mental health needs, the setting must support students and work with parents to conduct the with Emotionally Based Non-School Attendance (EBSNA) model in addition to making a referral to Health professionals and implement targeted interventions (this may include part time timetables) prior to making a referral for Section 19 support.

Reasonable adjustments may also be required, particularly when the child has a disability. In some cases, it may be helpful to use an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP). An IHP will ensure that schools know how to effectively support the child as well as to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. IHPs should be reviewed annually or earlier if a child's needs change.

Referral: Once identified, the school should refer the child to the correct service (identified below) within 10 working days of the child's absence reaching 15 school days. A referral should include medical evidence and any relevant information about the child's educational needs.

Assessment and Provision:

Assessment: Upon referral, the service will assess the child's educational needs in consultation with medical professionals, parents, and the school. The assessment will consider the child's health condition, the likely duration of absence, and the most appropriate form of educational provision.

Educational Provision: Hounslow Local Authority commissions suitable educational settings, which may include:

SEN EOTAS Tuition - LEAD Tuition: attending individual, small group, or online teaching, where appropriate at the child's home or another agreed location.

For students with EHCPs, an annual review should be called. If the outcome of the review is that a pupil requires a different setting or an alternative form of education such as tuition, either on a temporal or permanent basis and the parent/carer or young person is in agreement with this, the Case Officer will need to present the case to the EHC Multidisciplinary Panel or the PfA (Preparing for Adulthood) Forum (post 16) for approval. Once approved, the Case Officer will complete the tuition referral form and email this to LEAD Tuition Team for processing.

Woodbridge Park - Cate Medical: (Mainstream students) attending individual or group teaching at the child's home or another agreed location.

Referral made direct to Woodbridge Park:

cate@woodbridgepark.hounslow.sch.uk

Woodbridge Park - Hospital School: If the student is in a hospital, educational provision will be coordinated with the hospital school, or other educational services provided by the hospital.

Hospital education is normally provided to inpatients, though it can also be provided during regular visits to hospital by children who are day patients. Hospital education is a form of alternative provision, arranged by the local authority under the s.19 duty, which either:

- takes place at a community special school established in a hospital,
- takes place at a foundation special school established in a hospital,
- takes place at an academy established in a hospital,
- takes place in an independent school established in a hospital
- takes place in a pupil referral unit or academy which provides education for hospital inpatients and/or day patients, or

- takes place in a hospital where the education is provided by teachers directly employed by the local authority or by another school or academy under a service level agreement with the local authority.

Why and when a child is admitted to a hospital is due to a decision made by a medical practitioner, based on the child's health needs: the hospital education is provided under suitable arrangements made by the local authority in exercise of its s.19 duty.

Review: The child/young person educational provision will be reviewed regularly, at least once every six weeks, to ensure it remains suitable and effective. Adjustments will be made based on changes in the child's health or educational needs. If a child/young person is not engaging in the agreed offer, there will be a requirement for medical advice to ascertain the child/young person's needs and next steps.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Local Authority: The Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that suitable educational services are available for children unable to attend school due to health needs.

This includes coordinating services and ensuring that the provision meets the required standards.

Contact information:

AP@hounslow.gov.uk

Schools: Schools are responsible for referring children to either Local Authority or Woodbridge Park and working collaboratively to support the child's education.

A named worker should attend all review meetings and should maintain regular contact with the child and their family during their attendance to the

alternative provision, making every effort to engage the student with the school community.

Schools will facilitate the child's reintegration into school when appropriate.

Parents/Carers: Parents/carers are expected to provide the Local Authority and the school with up-to-date medical information and cooperate with the educational provision arranged. They should also support their child's learning at home where possible. Parent will also be expected to attend termly review meetings.

Health Professionals: Health professionals are responsible for providing medical evidence and advice to support the educational needs assessment. They should collaborate with the Local Authority to ensure the child's health and education needs are met. Where appropriate health professional will also attend termly review meetings providing up- to-date reports.

Reintegration to School:

Planning: When a child is ready to return to school, the identified education provision and the school will work together to develop a reintegration plan. This plan will be tailored to the child's needs and may include phased returns, part-time attendance, or additional support.

Monitoring: The reintegration process will be closely monitored, and adjustments will be made as necessary to ensure the child's successful return to school.

Quality Assurance and Monitoring:

The Local Authority will monitor the quality and effectiveness of the educational provision for children with additional health needs. Feedback from parents, schools, and the children themselves will be used to inform service improvements.

Complaints:

If parents or carers are dissatisfied with the provision made for their child, they should first discuss this with the Local Authority's designated officer. If the issue remains unresolved, they may use the Local Authority's formal complaints procedure.

https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20158/customer_services/1402/make_a_complaint_or_comment

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required by changes in legislation or guidance.

Appendix A: Relevant Legislation and Guidance

Education Act 1996 - Arranging Alternative Provision

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/part/I/chapter/III/crossheading/other-arrangements-for-provision-of-education>

Children and Families Act 2014 - Duty to secure special educational provision

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/section/42>

DfE Education of Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School (2013)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

DfE Alternative Provision Statutory Guidance [Alternative provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision-statutory-guidance)