



Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School

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At Woodhey High School our vision is:

To be a centre of excellence, where students, staff and the community are proud to work together to broaden our horizons, exceed our aspirations and where everyone achieves their full potential.

#TeamWoodhey

At Woodhey High School, we have two key values that drive our actions, our choices, and our decisions.

These are:

Respect

We treat everyone as we wish to be treated ourselves; we are all part of the same team.

Excellence

We strive to be the best we can be at all times; nothing but the best is good enough for us.

Underpinning our values are two clear expectations.

These are:

Respect every member of staff and student in our community, following all instructions without answering back.

Being excellent by being prepared for, and completing all work to the best of our ability without distracting others.

We are a team made up of our staff, our students, our parents and carers, and our wider community. Our vision, values and expectations apply to all of our community.

Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results (Ifeyanyi Enoch Onuoha)

#TeamWoodhey



Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students who are on the roll of Woodhey High School and cannot attend school due to health needs that have been identified by a medical practitioner.
- Students, staff, parents and carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Local Authority

Woodhey High School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, 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, wherever possible, students should receive their education within school and the aim of the provision will always be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

Where a student is medically unfit to attend school due to their health needs, the school fully commits to working with the Local Authority, who have the statutory duty to provide the education, as well as other agencies, such as healthcare partners, and parents and carers, to ensure that all students with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Links with Legislation

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance. The policy predominantly takes into account the statutory requirements, as detailed in the Department for Education's (DfE) 2013 document: 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.' Parents and carers requiring additional information in relation to their child(ren) not being able to attend school due to medical needs, should refer directly to this document, which can be found below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf

Other legislation and statutory guidance that this policy has due regard to also includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Education Act, 1996
- Equality Act, 2010
- 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions,' DfE, 2015
- 'Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance,' DfE, 2023

The Responsibilities of the School

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for students who have health needs who cannot attend school for a full time, 'usual' timetable. The Deputy Headteacher (Student Experience) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. In most cases, the school will endeavour to ensure that the educational provision remains on site, even if this means an adapted or part time timetable to support the student's medical needs.

In instances where an adapted or part time timetable is required, a plan will be drawn up in conjunction with parents or carers that details the appropriate steps to be taken and the educational



provision that has been agreed. It will also detail the responsibilities of the school and of the parents and carers.

In all cases, this will be for a time limited period (as determined by the school in relation to its statutory requirements) with the aim of integrating the student back into the school as soon as is possible, considering their health needs. This will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis in consultation with parents and carers.

This provision is normally for students who are likely to be absent for a period of less than 15 school days.

The Responsibilities of the Local Authority

The DfE's 2013 document: 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs,' is very clear about the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority when a child cannot attend school due to health needs.

The Local Authority must:

- Provide education as soon as it is clear that the student will be absent due to the medical needs for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They will liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student, and ensure it is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate qualifications, with the intention of reintegrating back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of the individual student in arranging the provision.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Have a named officer responsible (in Bury Local Authority) for the education of children with additional health needs and ensures parents and carers know who this is

The Local Authority cannot:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the most appropriate provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision or type of provision based on cost.
- Have policies based on the time or percentage of time that a child is able to attend school, rather than focusing on whether the child is receiving a suitable education.
- Have lists or health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable education.

Where the Local Authority (LA) arranges education for a Woodhey High School student, the school will work constructively with the LA, providers, relevant agencies and parents and carers to ensure the best outcome for the student. This will include sharing relevant information about, for example, but not limited to:

- The student's learning needs
- The school's curriculum
- The student's current progress along the intended curriculum

When the student reaches a stage where the Local Authority believe that they can be reintegrated back into school, the school and the LA will work together to plan appropriately to support the reintegration. Parents and carers will be kept fully informed and involved at all times.



The Role of the SENDCo

Most students who are unable to attend school due to health needs will be on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Register. In these instances, the SENDCo will liaise with the school's Senior Leadership Team and appropriate external agencies, including the Local Authority to ensure appropriate provision is implemented and that progress of the student is monitored.

The Role of Class Teachers

Where class teachers have a student in one of their classes, they are responsible for providing any required information about the student's current and previous learning to ensure that appropriate educational continuity can be provided. This may include, but is not limited to, where the student is along the intended curriculum learning journey.

Upon a student's reintegration, teachers are responsible for understanding the student's needs and any necessary adaptations that they may need to make within the classroom. The class teacher is responsible for ensuring these adaptations are made and seeking advice from the SENDCo if required.

Support for Students

Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will take steps such as, but not limited to, the below, to support the student, both before and during an absence, and during a reintegration period:

- Meet with parents or carers and any external agencies involved to discuss ways that the school can best support the student.
- Make any necessary reasonable adjustments.
- Provided personalised support (such as personalised or part time timetables)
- All students have access to Microsoft Teams and Showbie, where they can find prior and current learning to help address any knowledge gaps that may arise due to absence.
- Movement time during lessons
- Exams Access Arrangements to manage medical-induced fatigue.

