

Bullers Wood School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

Hayes School aims to support the LA and 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, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a student'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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of guidance provided by Bromley local authority as well as:

- 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'

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The school will maintain good links and promote co-operation with the local authority when children cannot attend school because of ill health. Sharing of information between the school, health services and the relevant Local Authority is vital. The school will play a key role in ensuring that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and they can be reintegrated back into school successfully as appropriate. The school will have a named person who can be contacted by the Local Authority and parents with regard to children who cannot attend school due to health 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.

- The SENDCO will be responsible for setting up and monitoring these arrangements in liaison with Heads of Year and subject teachers
- Examples of initial arrangements could be: sending work home for the student to complete, adapting work to address the health needs of the student, liaising with teachers in a hospital school/setting.
- The SENDCO will consult with parents and students about these arrangements and feedback to Heads of Year and subject teachers as appropriate
- The SENDCO will work closely with the Heads of Year to create an effective reintegration plan to enable the student to return to school successfully on a phased or structured return as appropriate

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements to meet the student's needs then Bromley Borough Local Authority or the borough where the student resides will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these students.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student.
 - Ensure the education students 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 students 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.

Students of all ages and key stages are eligible for support from this service if they are a resident in Bromley and:

- Have medical advice saying they are unfit to attend school, and one of the plans listed below:
- Have a consultant's letter requesting support from the Home and Hospital Service as part of a medical care plan that is also part of a:
 1. Pastoral Support Plan
 2. Personal Education Plan
 3. Reintegration Plan
- Are awaiting appropriate provision of education in mainstream or in special needs schools or alternative provision

Children at Princess Royal University Hospital can receive support from a qualified teacher either in the hospital classroom or at their bedside.

Children identified as eligible for support outside of school can be taught at home, in a library or educational centre or other suitable place as agreed with the parents, carers and providers.

Liaison with schools is maintained where a child is on roll so that continuity of learning is maintained.

Definitions

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.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

Our school will request medical evidence of these medical needs and an indication that students are not able to attend school as part of our attendance and absence recording procedures. Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and students on occasions where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

The Home and Hospital Tuition Service in Bromley provides learning mentors/teachers which are able to provide tuition and support within the home, home tuition base or in local libraries.

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200071/parental_support/37/

education_for_children_and_young_people_with_medical_needs

Process of referral:

The law does not specify the point during a child's illness when it becomes the LA's responsibility to secure for the child suitable full-time education. Schools would usually provide support to children who are absent from school because of illness for a shorter period, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza. In some cases, where a child is hospitalised, the hospital may provide education for the child within the hospital and the LA would not need to arrange any additional education, provided it is satisfied that the child is receiving suitable education. More generally, LAs should be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged. Referral to the Home Tuition Co-ordinator is through the school's SENDCO. For more information contact the Pastoral Manager, Behaviour Service at Bromley Borough.

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 student
 - Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
 - Help make sure that the provision offered to the student 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:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any further reasonable adjustments need to be made

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on-and off-site activities.

- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Approving and reviewing this policy on an annual basis.
- Working with the Local Governing Body and Board of Trustees to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting students 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 students' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents/carers, students, the LA, key workers and others involved in the student's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual students.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs.
- Providing teachers and other staff, including first aiders, who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student.
- Providing reports to the Local Governing Body on students in home or hospital based tuition and the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of students.
- Notifying the LA when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The Deputy Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead) is the named member of staff who has oversight of this policy.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- This policy operates in conjunction with the following School and Trust policies:
 - - Attendance and Punctuality Policy
 - - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
 - - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
 - - Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy
- Accessibility plan
- Supporting students with medical conditions/Managing Medicines policy