



**Barnhill**  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



**Approved by:** Trust Board

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**Next review due:** 5 February 2026

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### 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
- Education is not disrupted due to medical conditions affecting students' attendance to school
- The government's policies intention is that all children regardless of circumstance or setting should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

Local authorities have a duty to make suitable arrangements for children of compulsory school aged.

All Guidance and Acts have been taken into account when making this Policy.

Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that there is a named senior officer with responsibility for educational provision for children with health needs. The named officer for Hillingdon can be found on the following link: [Council departments - Hillingdon Council](#) and scrolling to the "Children and Young people's services" section. (\*See also the technical Appendix to this document for LBH 2022-23 teams)

### 3. Responsibilities of the school

Whilst it is the role and responsibility of the local authority to ensure that alternative education arrangements are made, students remain on the role of their school throughout their absence (unless agreed otherwise by the school and the local authority) Therefore it continues to be the school who has the responsibility if the students' education.

Among many other things, schools are responsible for :

- Referring pupils to the Pupil Support team via the local authority named officer
- Working with the Local Authority to identify the students' educational needs and monitoring the students' progress and reviewing provision ensuring the students has access to the correct education.
- Ensuring the child still feels a part of the school's community and maintains contact with other students e.g. being sent the schools newsletter.
- Supporting their education (eg by providing access to e-learning sites, learning materials, assessment information) whilst the pupil is off school
- Providing a named contact at the school, who will have the sole responsibility for co-ordination links between the school, pupil, p[arents and the Pupil Support Team.

- Under the Children and Families Bill 2013, a new duty on governing bodies to support pupils at school with medical needs came into force in September 2014. Statutory guidance is available [here](#). This duty applies to schools, academies and pupil referral units.

### **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 person responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements is the Inclusion Manager –Angela Gabriel. This includes any arrangements that could be made such as sending work home, hospitals. Whilst the inclusion manager will be in charge they will liaise with HOY'S, PSM's and CL's to ensure the correct amount of work is given to the student. Once this has been agreed it will then be approved by the SLT member in charge.

To ensure parents and students are aware of the arrangements being made the Inclusion manager there will be a consistent contact between them and the Inclusion Manager. There will be a meeting either in person or on teams to discuss all the information that has been presented and how everyone should work together to proceed.

The aim when reintegrating the student into the school is to ensure they feel comfortable and all their physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs are being taken into account. Each child's integration will be different in terms of providing an individualistic approach. However, an example of this is; the student will attend school and go into the alternative provision inside school where the inclusion Manager is based and they can have a discussion on how to integrate the student effectively ensuring they remain comfortable and the health condition is still being monitored.

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

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hillingdon council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

This policy applies to children and young people: who are of statutory school age and who are permanently resident in Hillingdon (including children who attend schools outside the borough) and who are not in school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative due to ill health and where the health need and necessity for absence has been validated as necessary by a medical doctor and will not receive a suitable full-time education unless the local authority makes arrangements for this. Health problems include physical illnesses, injuries and clinically defined mental health problems.

Suitable medical evidence will be required. This would include details of the health problem, how long the condition is expected to last and the likely outcome, and a treatment plan. This must be provided by a suitable medical professional, normally a hospital consultant.

However, where specific medical evidence is not available quickly, the local authority will liaise with other medical professionals (eg the child's GP), so that provision of education is not delayed. Normally, the medical professional cannot be privately commissioned and must be UK based.

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school Policy June 2022 Page 2 of 5 This policy applies to pupils at schools of all types (maintained schools, Academies, Free schools, special schools, independent schools). It also applies to children attending alternative provision and children who are not on a school roll. It applies whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently. Arrangements for alternative education will not normally be made for children and young people below or above compulsory school age.

Arrangements for alternative provision will be made as soon as it is known that a child has not attended school for 15 days for health reasons or as soon as it is clear that a health-related absence from school will be 15 days or longer, verified by a medical doctor.

The 15 days may be consecutive or cumulative. The provision will commence as quickly as possible. There may be circumstances in which suitable alternative education is already in place eg if the school has made arrangements for a pupil or the child is receiving education at a hospital school. In such circumstances, the local authority will intervene only if it has reason to think that the education provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient.

If a child is in hospital in a different borough for a long period, education provision would usually be arranged through the local education service, with the cost being met by the borough in which the child lives. 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:
  - 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
  - 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)
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Inclusion Manager and SLT line manager. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

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

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Condition