



Barnhill
Community High School



Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Approved by:	Board of Trustees
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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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority. [Circumstances in which alternative education will be commissioned by the local authority | Education of children unable to attend school because of additional health needs | Hillingdon Council](#)

3. Responsibilities of the school

It is the responsibility of the school to:

- Refer pupils to the pupil support team via the local authority named officer
- Work with the local authority to identify the education provision needed, the review of provision, monitoring of pupil progress, arrangements for reintegration into school
- Ensure that the pupil still feels part of the school community and maintains contact (eg providing information about school news and facilitating contact with other pupils).
- Support their education (eg by providing access to e-learning sites, learning materials, assessment information) whilst the pupil is off school.
- Provide a named contact at the school, who will have responsibility for coordinating links between the school, pupil, parents and the pupil support team

- Make arrangements for pupils to sit Key Stage tests and public examinations
- Plan and attempt reintegration back into school.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Responsibility and monitoring

- A named member of the **senior leadership team/SENCO** responsible for coordinating arrangements.
- Working with the pupil's **class/subject teachers**, pastoral staff and attendance team.
- Liaising with parents/carers, healthcare professionals and, where appropriate, the local authority.
- Regularly reviewing the provision to make sure the pupil continues to receive an appropriate standard of education.
- Keeping records of work provided, engagement and progress.

2. Types of educational arrangements

- Sending appropriate classwork and learning resources home.
- Providing access to online learning or the school's virtual learning platform.
- Live or recorded lessons where appropriate and practical.
- Regular contact with a teacher or pastoral member of staff.
- Individual or small-group tuition where appropriate.
- Working with a **hospital school/home tuition service** or other local authority provision where available.
- Making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum, workload or deadlines to reflect the pupil's health needs.

3. Consulting parents/carers and pupils

- Discussing the pupil's needs and circumstances with parents/carers.
- Seeking the pupil's views, taking account of their age and ability to contribute.
- Agreeing realistic learning goals and methods of communication.
- Reviewing arrangements regularly and making changes if the pupil's health or circumstances change.
- Maintaining appropriate communication between home and school.

4. Reintegration into school

- Agreeing a **personalised reintegration plan** with the pupil, parents/carers and relevant professionals.
- Considering a phased return, reduced timetable or gradual increase in lessons where appropriate.
- Identifying any reasonable adjustments or additional support needed.
- Ensuring teachers are aware of relevant needs and agreed adjustments.
- Monitoring attendance, wellbeing and academic progress after the pupil returns.
- Reviewing the plan regularly and adapting it as necessary.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Hillingdon will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

A meeting with the school will happen to look at the methods that have been used to support the student. This will be discussed with the named officer in Hillingdon. After looking at all the current support and context of each case it will be looked at to see the best provision for the students education, based on their needs

Key criteria applies to students;

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.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources

- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Head of Inclusion. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour policy