



Professionalism - Inclusion - Pedagogy - Curriculum

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Contents:

[Aims](#)

[Legislation and Guidance](#)

[Short-term or temporary medical conditions](#)

[Long-term and/or complex health needs](#)

[Integrated Assessment of Needs](#)

[Referrals to Advisory Teachers](#)

[Referrals for Tuition to the Social Inclusion Panel](#)

[Provision at home or hospital](#)

[Hospital Admissions](#)

[School Roll and Attendance Registers](#)

[Public Examinations](#)

[Monitoring Arrangements](#)

[Links to Other Policies](#)

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

Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#) and is based on guidance provided by [Tower Hamlets Local Authority](#). The information in this policy is taken from the 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' Tower Hamlets policy (2017).

Under the Education Act, 1996, schools and local authorities must provide suitable education for all children. The DfE definition of 'suitable' means suitable to the child's age, aptitude, ability and any special educational needs that he or she may have. 'Full time education' is not defined in law, but it should equate to what the pupil would normally have in school. Children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive one-to-one tuition, for example, the number of hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.

Short-term or temporary medical conditions

If health needs are short-term or temporary, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with who cannot attend school. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to:

- Packs of work provided by the class teacher
- Online 1:1 tuition through Google Classroom
- Specialist support from the school's speech and language therapist
- Organising short-term placements in hospital schools

The school will maintain weekly contact with parents and children, to ensure that set work meets the child's educational needs.

Once the child is ready to return to school, the SENCO will discuss plans with parents and the class teacher to ensure a smooth transition back into school life.

Long-term and/or complex health needs

Where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the LA is responsible for arranging provision. This applies whether or not the child is on roll of a school and whatever type of school they attend. The school will support the Local Authority in providing a suitable education through referrals to appropriate services, information sharing and supporting transition back into school life.

There will be some circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive a suitable education that meets their needs without the need for intervention from the local authority - for example where the school is able to make alternate arrangements.

Integrated Assessment of Needs

In order to provide suitable education to children with health needs, it is important the school conducts joint planning and regular reviews with external services to ensure shared understanding across different providers. Key services may include advisory teachers, school nurses, GPs, consultants, Children's Community Nursing Teams, Attendance and Welfare Advice Services, Special Educational Needs services and other statutory services such as Children's Social Care.

To ensure the best provision is in place, the common assessment framework (CAF) will be used for assessing needs, and a Team Around the Child (TAC) structure will be in place to support the family. Each case will be allocated a lead professional (LP) who will coordinate planning and liaising with the family.

The SENCO is responsible for coordinating the CAF for any children with health needs.

Referrals to Advisory Teachers

The local authority employs a primary advisor for children with disabilities and/or serious medical conditions. The relevant advisor should be consulted by the school about how education could be maintained in a mainstream context when a child has a health condition, or where a child may need arrangements to be educated outside of school. They can help by:

- Advising on how to access aids and technological support
- Arranging training for staff
- Sharing best practice and experiences of other schools
- Overseeing a programme of mainstream support that addresses any health concerns
- Overseeing a programme of mainstream support following reintegration from hospital or alternative provision while health concerns persist
- Ensuring that there are good links between the hospital school and Langdon Park School where necessary
- Ensuring that schools make appropriate arrangements for pupils taking pupil examinations
- Supporting the school nurse or other health care professionals to write health care plans

Referrals for Tuition to the Social Inclusion Panel

Access to educational provision outside the school is through referral to the Tower Hamlets multi-agency social inclusion panel (SIP) which meets fortnightly.

Where there is a clear medical reason why a child cannot attend a mainstream school, the school will make a referral to SIP in consultation with the school nurse and AWA, using a

CAF form, outlining the situation and the reason why education cannot be provided in school.

The referral must be accompanied by a letter from a doctor or consultant or CAMHs worker to the chair of SIP, confirming that the child is unable to attend school for 15 days or more, specifying the reasons why they believe the child or young person is in need of alternative provision, as well as giving an indication, where possible, about the length of time for which this will be necessary, and how and when it will be reviewed.

Requests for support should be made to the Social Inclusion Panel - sip@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Provision at home or hospital

Where children have complex, long-term health issues or life-limiting conditions, the pattern of their illness can be unpredictable. The child's needs and how these may best be met will be discussed through the TAC and include the school, the disability advisory teacher, the relevant clinician, parents and where appropriate the child.

The child may require individual tuition at home, either through the school or the LA, or need to be educated through the hospital school.

Hospital Admissions

All school aged children have access to the RLH school. If the child's health allows, tuition will be offered from the first day and all subsequent days of their stay. As soon as a child is admitted, staff the RLH school will contact The Head of Year in order to plan for and maintain continuity of education.

School Roll and Attendance Registers

Children who are unable to attend school due to health needs will normally remain on the roll of the school or education provider.

As a rule, all children of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education and should receive such unless their medical needs make this inappropriate. In exceptional circumstances, some children may be placed on a part-time timetable in order to meet their individual needs. This can apply when a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending school full-time, or when a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. However, this should not be treated as a long-term solution and should have a time-limit by which point the pupil is expected to receive the full-time education that they are entitled to.

When pupils of compulsory school age are on such a part-time timetable they are not present at school for part of the day or week. Unless they are attending approved educational activity when not present in school, they must be recorded as an authorised absence (code I or M).

Public Examinations

Where pupils are able, there is an expectation that they still have access to public examinations.

If a pupil is attending hospital school during a public examination, The Examinations Officer will enter the pupils and make arrangements for providing papers and invigilating in the hospital, with assistance from hospital school staff.

The SENCO will liaise with, and seek advice from, the disability advisory teacher to make individual arrangements for pupils.

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENCO. At every review it will be reviewed by the full governing board.

Links to Other Policies

This policy links to:

- Accessibility Plan
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs

Agreed by Governors: 20th July 2023