

# Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to physical or mental health needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents understand the roles of the school and the local authority in these circumstances.

This reflects our belief that all children are entitled to the same level of education whatever their circumstances.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#), section 19. The Equality Act 2010 also refers to this legislation in conjunction with statutory guidance.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority, a summary of which can be found at [Wirral Local Authority Home Education Service](#) on the Wirral Local Offer website.

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

### 3.1 Short-term illness

The school may make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children who cannot attend school for extended periods due to short-term illness (such as some cases of chickenpox or influenza).

- The Class Teacher will liaise with parents to agree these arrangements.
- These arrangements may involve sending home reading books or work that would have been completed in class, or enabling access to ICT software, where appropriate.

### 3.2 Longer-term illnesses

Some children will experience longer-term illnesses, which may result in extended periods of time away from school. This may be one long period or regular intermittent periods. Wirral Home Education Service will become responsible for arranging a suitable education for these children.

This may involve delivering education at home or at their site at Hilbre High School Humanities College, depending on individual circumstances. Referrals to the Home Education Service must come from a paediatrician, NHS specialist consultant, CAMHS psychiatrist or senior CAMHS

therapist/psychologist, alongside a school referral. A referral from school alone cannot usually be considered.

If a child is experiencing an extended stay in hospital, education may be administered by hospital teaching staff.

In these instances, the school's SENDCO 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.

## 3.3 Reintegration

When reintegration is anticipated, we will 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. We will also liaise with the School Nurse, where appropriate.

## 4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs Fernandez, SENCO. 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
- Asthma Policy
- SEND Policy and Information Report