



Eastlea
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that all students who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and those who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows. The policy also aims to make students, staff and parents/carers aware of the school's responsibility when this type of education is being provided by the local authority. At Eastlea, we understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not attending the school. We will work with the LA, healthcare, multi-agency professionals, other partners and families to ensure that all students with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education and to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- [DfE \(2013\) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'](#)
- [DfE \(2015\) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'](#)
- [Education Act 1996](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)

2.1 The policy is also based on the recommendations from a joint partnership agreement between the LA and Eastlea Community School, which is based on an individual case by case basis for each student.

3. The Responsibilities of the School

Initially, Eastlea Community School will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The school 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 a 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, ensuring 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 the SENCO 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 that is in place focuses on, and meets the needs of individual students
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs
- Providing teachers 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

3.1 The SENCO at Eastlea is responsible for:

- Dealing with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs
- Actively monitoring students' progress and reintegration into school
- Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes

- Liaising with the Head of School, education providers and parents/carers to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school
- Keeping students informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers
- Providing a link between students and their parents/carers, and the LA

4. The responsibility of the parents/carers

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child to school where possible
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child
- Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned

5. Managing Absences

Parents/carers are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.

- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness
- The school will provide support to students who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than **15 school days** by liaising with the student's parents/carers to arrange schoolwork as soon as the student is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the student, their family and relevant members of staff
- For periods of absence that are expected to last for **15 or more school days**, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the SENCO will

notify the LA, who will take responsibility for the student and their education

- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the student's absence
- For hospital admissions, the SENCO will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the student is in hospital
- The LA will set up a personalised education plan for the student which will allow the school, the LA and the provider of the student's education to work together
- The school will monitor student attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a student is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school
- The school will only remove a student who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where:
 - The student has been certified by the School Nurse as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age; and
 - Neither the student nor their parent/carer has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age
- A student who is unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the School Nurse, even if the LA has become responsible for the student's education

6. Support for students

- Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents/carer and, where appropriate, the student
- The LA expects the school to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to students' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments

- The school will make reasonable adjustments under students' individual healthcare plan
- Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes
- Whilst a student is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the student can successfully remain in touch with their school through phone calls, the school email, the parent bulletin, invitations to school events, cards or letters from peers, staff etc.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the student's education provider with the relevant information, curriculum materials and resources
- To help ensure a student with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the SENCO will liaise with the LA, the Head of School and parents/carers to adapt the school environment, where possible, to meet the needs of the student
- The SENCO will complete an internal assessment in the form of a Risk Assessment as part of the Monitoring Framework for vulnerable students. The purpose of the Risk Assessment is to ensure that vulnerable students have the appropriate support. It will also give the SENCO an opportunity to review the provision regularly in order to assess any new risks or concerns

7. Examinations and Assessments

The SENCO will liaise with the alternative provision provider over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate, and share the information with the school's Exams Officer.

- Relevant assessment information will be provided to the alternative provision provider if required
- Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for pupils with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses
- Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as early as possible

8. Reintegrating students

- When a student is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA
- The school will work with the LA when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school
- As far as possible, the student will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school
- If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the student's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the SENCO, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the student
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the student
- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed closer to the student's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill student or their parent/carer in the early stages of their absence
- The school is aware that some students will need gradual reintegration over a longer period of time and will always consult with the student, their parent/carer and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return
- The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage students and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period
- Following reintegration, the school will support the LA in seeking feedback from the student regarding the effectiveness of the process

9. Monitoring arrangements

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

- The Deputy Headteacher - Personal Development will work collaboratively with the SENCO to oversee the implementation, arrangements and guidance laid out in this policy
- The SENCO is responsible for checking and monitoring the quality of the education provision for students with health needs who cannot attend school, and maintain frequent interactions between the student, their parent/carer and the LA

10. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following school policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Safeguarding Policy