



**'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!'**

# **CHILDREN with HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL Policy**

**Lead person responsible:**  
**Miss J Ash, Mrs L Byrne, Welfare Officer**

**Date: June 2021**

**Review Date: June 2022**

## **Introduction and Aims**

At Roe Green Junior School, we aim to support the local authority in ensuring that all children who are unable to attend school due to health needs continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their school and education.

### **Named people responsible for the implementation of this policy:**

Miss J Ash (SEND Leader), Mrs Lucy Byrne (Deputy Head Teacher), Welfare Officer

Children who are unable to attend school as a direct result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- **Hospital school:** a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- **Home tuition:** a tuition service that acts as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend
- **Medical PRUs:** local authority establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

## **Legislation and guidance**

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#). It also in accordance with the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children

who cannot attend school because of health needs, 2013' and ['Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions.'](#)

**Local authorities must:**

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

**Local authorities should:**

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

**The responsibilities of the school**

**If the school makes arrangements:**

Initially, the school will attempt to make alternative arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

**The Governors are responsible for:**

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a direct result of their health needs are in place and are effectively implemented
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their health needs
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.

### **The Head teacher is responsible for:**

- Working with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs
- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the local authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care
- Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil
- Providing reports to the Governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils
- Notifying the local authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

### **The SEND Leader is responsible for:**

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes
- Liaising with the Head teacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programs of study whilst they are absent from school
- Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the local authority.

### **Teachers and support staff are responsible for:**

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs

- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school

**Parents are expected to:**

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the 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 health needs
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

**If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Brent Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- If a child is absent from school for more than 15 days the school will make a referral to the educational welfare service
- If the child cannot attend school due to a medical condition, documentation from a medical professional must state the specific medical needs. A referral to the panel with inclusion at Brent that considers referrals.

**In cases where the local authority make the 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 their peers and 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
- The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

## **Links to other policies**

This policy should be read with the following policies which it links to:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Remote education policy