

Orchard Community Primary School



Policy for children unable to attend school because of medical needs

This policy was approved by the Governing Body of Orchard Primary School at their meeting on.....

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Version	Date	Author	Reason for Change
0.1	9/2019	FS	New Policy

Review Frequency	Next Review Date
Every 3 years	9/2022

Aim

This policy and practice document aims to ensure that all pupils on roll at Orchard Community Primary School, who are unable to attend school because of medical needs, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, so that they are able to maintain the momentum of their education and to keep up with their studies.

It should be read alongside the statutory guidance produced by the DfE. 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs. Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities - January 2013'.

Children and young people who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs will include those with:

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

General Principles

- The school's policy and practice is to minimise, as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling that can be experienced by children with complex medical needs.
- The school will continue to support and provide a suitable education for children with health needs as normally as their needs allow.
- The school will work in partnership with the Local Authority to ensure the child's academic needs are met.
- The school has a named member of staff (the Headteacher) who will devise a timetable and support the pupil's reintegration back into school.
- The aim will be for full time education to re-commence as soon as health needs dictate. However, the number of hours offered will be dependent upon the individual child's needs. It is expected that school will continue to offer some hours of education whenever possible to facilitate the child's full time return.
- Where a pupil is educated at home, the minimum entitlement provided by the LA will be for 5 hours individual tuition per week. This may be increased where it is necessary to enable the pupil to keep up with their studies. This is particularly important when a pupil is approaching public examinations. The decision over the amount and nature of provision will be based on medical advice, the judgement of the teacher and home school and the expressed views of the child/young person and their parents/carers.
- Children and young people admitted to hospital will receive education in hospital as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital school/tuition team for the hospital concerned.
- We will work with parents/carers and Community Paediatricians to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.

- In the case of a pupil who is expected to be absent for 15 working days or less, and where this is not part of a pattern of absence related to a chronic or recurring illness, we will make arrangements in liaison with the pupil's parents to provide the pupil with homework as soon as they become able to cope with it.
- The school will ensure that information about the pupil's curriculum, their achievements and any special educational needs that they may have is provided promptly to any personal tutors.
- School will provide appropriate work and materials promptly and regularly.
- We will be active in the monitoring of progress and in establishing a smooth reintegration into school, liaising with other agencies as necessary.
- The school will ensure that pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs are kept informed about school social events, and are able to participate in homework clubs, study support and other activities as appropriate.
- We will encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, for example through visits and videos.

Monitoring and evaluation

The progress of pupils receiving tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs will be monitored by the staff of the hospital school/tuition service in conjunction with a named member of school staff.

PRACTICE

Arranging tuition

For absences that are expected to last for 15 working days or less and are not part of a recurring illness

Liaison between the school and pupil's parents to arrange homework as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part time education at school.

For absences that are expected to last for more than 15 working days

For a pupil where the medical need involves a physical or medical condition, the school will seek the advice of the Community Paediatrician or relevant Consultant. The Community Paediatrician/Consultant will be asked to:

- Confirm the pupil's medical condition
- Indicate whether the pupil's absence is likely to last for more than 15 working days
- Comment on the pupil's ability to cope with educational provision, i.e. whether the pupil is medically unfit to attend school
- Comment on the kind of arrangements that would be needed to ensure the pupil's continued access to education
- Comment on the length of time that the pupil is likely to be absent and therefore in need of support
- Comment on whether the illness is chronic and therefore whether future absences are likely and tuition will be needed without the need to re-refer
- Indicate the review arrangements to ensure that the pupil returns to school as soon as they are medically able to do so and any reintegration arrangements that should be considered, e.g. a phased return

- Indicate the treatment or support that the pupil is to receive through the Health Service to support their return to health and mainstream schooling
- For a pupil where the medical needs involves a psychological or mental health difficulty or emotional difficulties/school refusal, the school will refer to CAMHS for a view of the pupils. A referral to an Education Psychologist may be appropriate. NB The School should undertake a risk management plan for pupils who are at significant risk of self harm.

The services consulted will be asked to:

- Provide confirmation from a relevant health consultant e.g. Community paediatrician, hospital consultant or consultant psychiatrist of the pupil's psychological or mental health difficulty and provide an estimated timescale that the provision will be required.
- Indicate whether the pupil's absence is likely to last for more than 15 working days
- Comment on the pupil's ability to cope with educational provision
- Comment on the kind of arrangements that would be needed to ensure the pupil's continued access to education
- Comment on the length of time that the pupil is likely to be absent and therefore in need of support
- Indicate the review arrangements to ensure that the pupil returns to school as soon as they are able to do so and any reintegration arrangements that should be considered, e.g. a phased return
- Indicate the treatment or support that the pupil is to receive to support their return to health and mainstream schooling

For absences that are linked to a chronic/recurrent illness or condition

- As indicated above, the Community Paediatrician/Consultant will be asked to comment on the nature of the pupil's medical condition and indicate whether the condition is chronic and therefore whether there is likely to be a recurring need for tuition.
- In such cases it should not be necessary to wait for further confirmation of the condition and that tuition is required each time the pupil is unwell and unable to attend school.

Public Examinations

Efficient and effective liaison is important when children with health needs are approaching public examinations. The hospital school or home-tutor should be able to arrange a suitable focus on the child's education at this stage in order to minimise the impact of the time lost while a child is unable to attend school. Awarding bodies will make special arrangements for children with permanent or long term illnesses or indispositions when taking public examinations. The school will submit applications for special arrangements following DFE Guidance.

SEN

Children with Special Education Needs (SEN) should have individual Education Plans (IEP's) and should continue to receive Annual Reviews organised by the school.

Review and reintegration

- Decisions about when and how a pupil should return to school following illness need to take account of a wide range of views, including those of the pupil, their parents/carers, personal tutor and the pupil's school, the Community Paediatrician, and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.
- It is essential that each pupil receiving tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs is reviewed at least half termly to determine:
 - Whether the pupil continues to need tuition (unless the advice received previously has indicated a need for longer term tuition, for example in the case of a pupil who is terminally ill)
 - Whether plans need to be made to reintegrate the pupil into mainstream school, and if so, whether there are factors that need to be taken into account
- When the pupil is considered well enough to return to school, Orchard staff will develop an individually tailored reintegration plan in liaison with the pupil, their parents/carers, and other agencies who are actively involved.
- The LA will review all pupils who are receiving tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs to ensure that provision is kept under review in accordance with this policy and practice document.

Equal Opportunities

- We will strive to ensure that equal opportunities are fundamental to our assessment of circumstances and to the service provided, recognising strengths and addressing areas of difficulty on an individual basis.
- We aim to provide an education comparable to that available in school, including a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Pupils with long-term or recurring medical conditions will have an Individual Education Plan.
- The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers so that they show if a pupil is, or ought to be, receiving education otherwise than at school. Children will not be removed from school registers unless medical evidence states that the child will be unable to attend school for the rest of their compulsory schooling.