

Hatfield Peverel

St Andrew's Junior School



## Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	Becky Black	<b>Date:</b> Sept 2024
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	Sept 2024	
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### 1. 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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gBJ45r-ThZLrfoB\\_ULq3niW5Ulw0-a7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100278166941629776494&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gBJ45r-ThZLrfoB_ULq3niW5Ulw0-a7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100278166941629776494&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### 3. Responsibilities of the school

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to their medical needs, the school must be able to demonstrate that they have sought and followed advice from all relevant agencies, including health, EP service, Specialist Teachers, Essex County Council Attendance Team and their SEND Quadrant team. The SENCo must be consulted for their advice on how best to manage the pupil's needs. This must be evidenced, where appropriate, using the One Planning process. **All mental health requests must have oversight from the school SENCo and Senior Leadership Team.**

Schools would be expected to refer to the tool kit for schools that is available on the Essex Schools Infolink to assist with identifying how best to support pupils.

The school, in discussion with health care professionals, may wish to prepare an individual health care plan to evidence how the pupil's health needs can be managed in school – this should be shared with parents and the pupil where appropriate.

The school will be expected to demonstrate that they have made all reasonable adjustments and followed any advice recommended by the services supporting the pupil before a referral for support will be considered. Any advice or guidance issued to the school and the school's response should form part of the referral - this can be demonstrated using One Plan documentation.

### 3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Mrs Dutaut (SENDCO) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements to support children at home. Regular communication with parents will be via email and phone calls. Home learning will be a bespoke plan to meet the academic and well-being needs of the child and will be made in discussion with the class teacher, parent and any specialists that may be working with the family.

Regular discussion with parents and child to be had.

Social opportunities to be made where and if appropriate.

Part time timetable to be discussed prior to return to school (if appropriate)

### 3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Essex County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

- › The decision regarding if arrangements are 'suitable' will be made in discussion with school/LA and parent

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- › Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- › Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- › Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- › Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- › Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- › When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- › Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- › Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources

- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Becky Black. 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