

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Ashbury Meadow Primary School



Approved by:

L Babajide

Date: 18.5.23

Written on:

25.3.21

Review date: May 23

Reviewed by Lucy Thomas

Next review date: June 2024

1. Introduction

Ashbury Meadow Primary School works in partnership with pupils, parent/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school, receive an education in a hospital setting or at home. Our school will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- School recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible so that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

2. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, our school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. This will be done in line with our remote learning policy via Google Classroom for years 1-6 and Tapestry for EYFS. Paper copies will be provided on request.

When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child. This may be provided via the Manchester Hospital School. There is no charge for this service, but should home tuition exceed 6 months then a charge may be made to the home school.

Referral to the Manchester Hospital School for home tuition can be made by completing a referral form (details on inclusion toolkit) Medical evidence will be required and should be attached, at this stage.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

Our school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, the school will host review meetings as long as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the school will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

Our school will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff and the staff providing the education otherwise.

3. Reintegration into the School

The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The school will ensure that the pupils and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The school will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The school will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organizing risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. (See our lifting and handling policy) The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEND devolved budget.

Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both the school and the education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence. Contact will be maintained via zoom links to assemblies and live lessons and pastoral support will maintain regular contact via phone calls and doorstep visits.

The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Head teacher, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Head teacher will report to the

Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.

4. References

- Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs, DfE 0025/2002.
- The Education of Children with Medical Needs, Ofsted HMI 1713, pub. 2003
- Manchester MBC Policy on the Education of Children with Medical Needs who are Unable to Attend School.
- The Manchester Inclusion Toolkit
- Education Services providing education to Manchester pupils unable to attend school for medical reasons:
- Manchester Hospital School
Leo Kelly Centre
Manchester
M14 5AZ
Tel. no. 0161 225 2199

The council have updated their section 19 policy, which is attached and will be used as a reference in conjunction with this policy.

5. Monitoring

The head teacher, (L Thomas)will provide staff and Governors with regular summaries of the impact of this policy on the school.

The SENDCO (M Fuller) is involved in supporting teachers and support staff who draw up intervention plans for children.

The Policy Updates and Implementation are the responsibility of the following people:

L Thomas Head teacher