



Education of children with medical needs who are unable to attend school

1. Introduction

Watchorn Christian School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive 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:

- Watchorn 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 such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

2. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.

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.

Watchorn School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education 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 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.

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.

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.

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

Fee's will still be charged during the period of absence.

Reviewed 04/10/2020