



# DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

## Children with Health Needs That Cannot Attend School Policy



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Content:

1. Aims
2. Legislation and guidance
3. The responsibilities of the school
  - 3.1 If the school makes arrangements
  - 3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements
  - 3.3 The Governing Board and Head Teacher are responsible for
  - 3.4 The SENDCo is responsible for
  - 3.5 Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for
4. Absences
5. Support for students
6. Children who are not on a school roll
7. Students with life limiting and terminal illness
8. Pregnant pupils
9. Monitoring arrangements
10. Links to other policies

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs;

Students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Drayton Manor High School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, 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, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not in school and will work with external agencies and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'. **Children and Families Act 2014**
- **Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014**, regarding the duty of the local authority to provide education for students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

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

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health difficulties
- Progressive Conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

### 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

The Designated Safeguarding Lead, Head of Year and SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents / carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital school or online provision.

When appropriate, the student will be integrated back into school by reasonable adjustments being made with alternative arrangements and a risk assessment in place.

### 3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

#### Legal Framework for local authorities

The Local Authority has a duty set out in Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and in the statutory guidance, ensuring a good education for students who cannot attend school because of health needs. The Equality Act 2010 is also an important part of the legal framework around students and young people with significant medical needs

**The SEND Code of Practice (2015)** requires schools to work in collaboration with local authorities to provide suitable education to students with special educational needs or health conditions, even when the child is absent from school.

The statutory guidance is clear that there will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but may receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the local authority. For example, where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child.

The local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for students of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision (unless the local authority considers that a student's condition means that full-time provision would not be in his or her best interests). This duty applies to all students and young people who live within the local authority boundaries, regardless of the type (inclusive of pupils attending academies, free schools, special schools, independent schools or maintained schools) or location (where a child is ordinarily resident in a local authority but attends school outside the county, the local authority of residence retains responsibility for arranging medical needs provision for that child) of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the roll of a school. The law does not define full-time education, but students with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements through Ealing Alternative Provision (EAP), the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Ensure the provision offered to the student 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible;

- Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links 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.

### **3.3 The Governing Body and Head Teacher are responsible for:**

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring that appropriate SEND provision is in place for students who are unable to attend due to health needs and that the provision is regularly reviewed in line with statutory expectations.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made, particularly for students with long-term or chronic health conditions, under the Equality Act 2010.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, Ealing local authority, key workers and others involved in the student's care.
- Providing teachers who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student.
- Notifying Ealing local authority Education Welfare Officer (EWO) when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

### **3.4 The SENDCo is responsible for:**

- Supporting students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring student progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes along with the Head of Year
- Liaising with the head teacher, education providers and parents to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst

in the school.

### **3.5 Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:**

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.

### **4. Absences**

- Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with Ealing Alternative Provision to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the student's absence.
- For hospital admissions, the SENCo will liaise with the hospital school teacher regarding the programme that should be followed while the student is in hospital.
- The school will monitor student's attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a student is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

### **5. Support for students**

- Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with Ealing Alternative Provision, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the student. Ealing local authority expects the school to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to students' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under students' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.

- Whilst a student is away from school, the school will work relevant external agency to ensure the student can successfully remain in touch with the school
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the student's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

To help ensure a student with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member;
- Access to additional support in school
- Online access to the curriculum from home
- Movement of lessons to more accessible room
- Places to rest at school
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

## **6. Children who are not on a school roll**

The local authority retains responsibility for supporting students who are not on roll at a school (Children Missing Education) whose health needs prevent them from accessing education.

This includes students who are in need of alternative education provision due to medical or health-related absences. The local authority must ensure that these children receive a suitable education as per Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

In these instances, parents/carers or professionals working with a child who falls into this category should contact either their Education, Health and Care Plan Coordinator (for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan) or alternatively the council's Specialist Teacher Adviser to discuss future educational provision.

## **7. Students with life limiting and terminal illness**

The council will continue to provide education for as long as the pupil's parents and the medical staff wish it.

## **8. Pregnant Pupils**

It is an expectation that students who are pregnant will continue to be educated at school whilst it is reasonably practical and it is in the interests of the student. Medical Needs Referrals for pregnant students will be considered on a case-by-case basis and support will generally be provided for six weeks prior to, and six weeks following, the birth of the baby. The student will remain on the roll of the school. If the student has not reached statutory school leaving age, it is expected that she will reintegrate into school. Evidence needs to be provided to the school to confirm when the baby is expected so that an appropriate Medical Needs referral can be made. However, the Equality Act 2010 places an obligation on the school to ensure that pregnant students are not discriminated against, and the school must make reasonable adjustments for



these students

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Body.

## **10. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy
- Supporting students with medical needs policy.