

GRIMSDYKE SCHOOL



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Approved by:	Full Governing Body
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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](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority: [Harrow Policy for Children with Medical Needs](#)

It is a statutory requirement that the LA have a named person responsible for the education of children with additional health needs. In Harrow Council the named person is: Emma Harkin, Divisional Director Education Services.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Schools also have statutory duties in respect of children with additional health needs under the DfE statutory guidance, Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (December 2015). The LA and schools should work together in partnership with parents / primary carers, social services, health professionals and other agencies as appropriate, to plan and provide suitable alternative provision for children with additional health needs. The LA will intervene where it is apparent that a child's health need is preventing them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged. Intervention may include supporting the child's school to comply with its duties in relation to managing the child's medical condition and / or arranging provision for a temporary period. Whilst the LA may be responsible for ensuring that alternative education arrangements are made, children with additional health needs must remain on the roll of their school throughout their absence and the school retain their duty to support such pupils.

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.

- Our welfare/attendance officer monitors all school absence daily and reasons for it – reviewing this regularly with the Headteacher.
- Our welfare/attendance officer will notify the class teacher, year group leader, deputy head, and assistant head/SENDSCO, who will implement and monitor the necessary arrangements.
- Possible arrangements could include sending work home, using Google Classroom or home learning menus, setting up collaborative peer projects to maintain social connection through online platforms, coordinating with Hospital-based tutors, and holding regular check-ins with the family to plan next steps.
- Our remote teaching and learning policy outlines general remote learning and our welfare/attendance officer or assistant head/SENDSCO will facilitate consultation with parents and children about these arrangements as appropriate.
- We will take care to plan reintegration of pupils back into school through consultation between teachers and parents and children facilitated by our welfare officer and assistant head/SENDSCO.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If Grimsdyke School is unable to make suitable arrangements, or if a child is expected to miss 15 or more school days (consecutively or cumulatively) due to a health need, the school will liaise with the Local Authority to arrange suitable alternative education.

- When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th 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.
- Grimsdyke School will work in partnership with the local authority and make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) - a team of professionals from social care, education, health, and police - if there are concerns that the proposed arrangements may not be suitable or safe for the child.
- The School will liaise with the LA as soon as there is possibility that absence might exceed 15 days but will start putting arrangements in place as soon as possible with an aim for arrangements in place from the first day of absence.

The process for referring a child to the local authority is as follows:

If a school, health professional, social worker or other professional working with a child becomes aware that a child has missed or is likely to miss 15 days of school due to health reasons, a notification via a referral should be made to Harrow Children's Services (Harrow MASH – Duty & Assess) for allocation to Education Services' attendance officers.

A notification needs to be sent to the LA even in cases where the school is making alternative provision for the child's education needs. Once a referral is received, Education Services' attendance officers will contact the relevant school and the parent of the child is contacted to discuss the referral. If relevant medical evidence has not been sent with the notification the officer will seek consent to contact the family GP or Health professional for medical evidence to verify the child's condition. Such evidence would usually be expected from the treating consultant / professional but where specific medical evidence is not available quickly, the LA

will liaise with other medical professionals (e.g. the child's GP) so that provision of education is not delayed. Normally the medical professional cannot be privately commissioned and must be UK based. Once a child's health condition is verified and where a school does not appear to be making alternative provision for the child's educational needs, Education Services' attendance officers will assess whether agreement can be reached with the parents and the school regarding the most suitable provision to be offered having liaised with the appropriate health professionals and the school.

Where agreement cannot be reached, an Education Services' attendance officer will refer the matter to the School Attendance Intervention Panel (SAIP) who will meet to agree a suitable provision. The agreed provision should commence as quickly as possible, taking into account the child's health needs, so as to avoid unnecessary disruption to the child's education. Where it is agreed that a school will send home work to the child as a Short-term measure, this should be appropriately supervised by the school. The DfE statutory guidance makes clear that where a child is doing work at home, the child's attendance register can no longer be marked with the B Code (educated off site) and so in these situations, school will have to authorise the absences and mark the register with the C code.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the 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 the Pastoral Committee of the Governing Body. 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](#)
- › [Attendance Policy](#)
- › [Remote Teaching and Learning Policy](#)
- › [Online Video Conferencing Policy](#)