



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

SLT	Natasha Cameron
Committee	Curriculum, Teaching & Learning
Date Agreed	28 June 2021
Review Date	28 June 2022

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance.....	2
3. The responsibilities of the school	2-4
4. The responsibilities of parents	4
5. The school and local authority arrangements	5-6
6. Monitoring arrangements	6
7. Links to other policies.....	6

1. Aims

Deptford Green School aims to support Lewisham Local Authority to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school because of health needs, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows. We hope that this will enable any child to achieve their full potential however, we understand that due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. Regardless of this, this policy aims to ensure that:

- Whenever possible, suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Lewisham Local Authority.
- For pupils who receive their education from an alternative provision, the aim will be to reintegrate them back into school as soon as they are well enough.
- The school has a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education/educational provision.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their health needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their health needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Working with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the local authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Providing reports to the Governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notifying the local authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

Inclusion Lead is responsible for:

- Working closely with the parents and pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs.
- Consulting with parents and pupils about arrangements and plans via email, telephone and face-to-face meetings where and when necessary.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the local authority.
- Working closely with pupils and their parents to ensure that an appropriate reintegration plan is arranged and implemented.

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.

- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil'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.
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's health needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

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 Headteacher (Mark Phillips) and the Inclusion Lead (Natasha Cameron) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. The sort of arrangements that could be made might include:
 - Arrangements for work to be sent home or to alternative provisions.
 - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the Headteacher/Inclusion Lead.
 - Access to additional support in school.
 - Online access to the curriculum from home.
 - Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms where possible.
 - Places to rest at school.
 - Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority, the London Borough of Lewisham, will become responsible for arranging suitable education for children who cannot attend school due to health needs.

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 children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (DfE, 2013). <https://www.education.gov/g00219676/special-health-needs-education>

Local authorities should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

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

- › Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil.
- › Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- › Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the pupil 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.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mark Phillips (Headteacher) and Natasha Cameron (Inclusion Lead). 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