



WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Date Ratified: February 2023
Reviewed by: FGB
Date for Review: February 2024

This school is welcoming and supportive of pupils with medical conditions. It provides children with medical conditions with the same opportunities and access to activities (both school-based and out-of-school) as other pupils. No child will be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in this school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. If a child is unable to attend school, the school will support the family to ensure the child receives an education at home or in hospital.

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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

- This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#)
- Statutory guidance for local authorities - [Ensuring a good education for children who can't attend school because of health needs](#) – 2013

This policy also reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

3. The responsibilities of the school

When a child is unable to attend school due to medical needs initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education. The school will work closely with the parents and arrange for work to be sent home. The class teacher will be the initial point of contact but the SENDCo or a member of the senior leadership team may also need to support the child and family. Following this absence the school will support the child in their reintegration into school.

When the absence is likely to be more long term (more than 2/3 weeks) then the school will work closely with the local authority to provide an education for the child by making a referral to 'The Education Support Team for Medical Absence (ESMA)'. This is not an Alternative Educational Provision - its role is to provide support to Hertfordshire schools which have pupils who are temporarily unable to attend school full time.

ESMA is a teaching service for students unable to attend school for medical reasons.

- It delivers high quality teaching in the core subjects
- It complements the school's support plan
- It provides reintegration support to schools

The ESMA Teaching Service provides tuition for:

- pupils of statutory school age (5-16years old), who have medical evidence that justifies their school's absence.
- pupils who are Hertfordshire residents with medical evidence for school non-attendance.

The referral should include:

- signed parental consent
- copy of school reduced timetable, in line with HCC guidance on reduced timetables.
- copy of Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle.

- copy of the current treatment plan and the named medical contact
- for pupils receiving additional funding (through either an EHCP or Local High Needs Funding and/or Pupil Premium Grant) the school should state in the reintegration plan how this funding is being used.

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
- School and ESMA staff will liaise with pupils, parents/carers and medical teams to ensure there is a clear understanding of the impact the pupil's illness has on his/her ability to access the curriculum. Reasonable adaptations to the curriculum will be made to help the pupil to achieve despite their illness.
- ESMA pupils will achieve curriculum and reintegration targets. Pupils will develop a positive self-image and be happy to be in school.
- Targets will be achievable yet challenging. Curriculum targets are set based on assessments made by ESMA staff and assessment information provided by the school. Reintegration targets are set following liaison with medical staff and in consultation with pupils and their families at regular review meetings.
- ESMA staff will encourage pupils to achieve their full potential, taking into account the challenges that their illness may present.

If a pupil is in hospital for a prolonged period of time the school will liaise with the school education team to ensure the pupil is supported with their learning, health permitting. Once the pupil leaves hospital the school can make a referral to ESMA if the pupil needs support before returning to school.

4. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions