

Ryburn Valley Academy
Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school policy



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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:

- [Education Act 1996](#).
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

It is also based on guidance provided by Calderdale Council.

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/sites/default/files/Medical-Needs-Policy.pdf>

3. Definitions

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 problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The responsibilities of the school

- Convene a professional's meeting and chair regular review meetings (normally every 6/8 weeks); to review the plan and progress made and identify next steps.
- provide materials for an appropriate programme of work and work plans;
- maintain a plan, such as an Individual Education Plan, which records progress made towards a return to school;
- ensure all staff are kept informed;
- ensure appropriate arrangements, including entry and invigilation are made for all examinations;
- provide the pupil's academic attainment levels including any relevant examination requirements;

- assess coursework;
- facilitate career interviews;
- arrange work experience placements;
- provide a named teacher with whom each party can liaise (usually the SENCO);
- provide a suitable working area within the School, where necessary;
- be active in the monitoring of progress and the reintegration into school, using key staff to facilitate the reintegration into school;
- ensure that pupils who are unable to attend school, are kept informed about school social events, are able to participate, for example, in homework clubs, study support and other activities;
- encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, for example, through visits and videos. The school will devise a reintegration programme following discussion with the child or young person, parent/carer, MNT, relevant health professional(s) and other involved agencies as appropriate

4.2 The pupil's role is to:

- engage with the Medical Needs Team educational provision;
- be prepared to communicate their views;
- engage with other agencies as appropriate;
- prepare for reintegration as soon as possible.

4.3 The parents'/carers' role is to:

- Produce appropriate medical evidence and commit to a plan of reintegration;
- be willing to work together with all concerned.
- be present in the home during the tuition time (or nominate appropriate adult)
- provide early communication if a problem arises or help is needed;
- attend necessary meetings;
- reinforce with their child, the value of a return to school.

4.4 The Responsibilities of the LA:

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The Trust/Academy has a duty to support the LA in doing so.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 school days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs. Reviewed October 2019 5
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

4.5 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 Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Outcomes will:

- Deal with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitor 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 LA.

4.6 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Calderdale Education Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

4.7 Reintegration

When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA.

- The school will work with the LA when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.
- As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- If appropriate, the school healthcare assistant will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.
- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- The school is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

The reintegration plan will include:

- The date for planned reintegration, once known.
- Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
- Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil.
- Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.
- Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.
- A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.
- Follow up procedures.

The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

Following reintegration, the school will support the LA in seeking feedback from the pupil regarding the effectiveness of the process.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Nicola Ramsden (Assistant Head Teacher). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy