



Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Signed:

Chair: *M. Pound*

Executive Head: *R. Williams*

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Goldstone Federation Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

1. Introduction

Both Hinstock and Cheswardine Primary Schools work in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. Our Federation will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory DfE guidance '*Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs*', 2023. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- The Federation recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

2. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child. This may be provided through the Federation's resources via remote online learning and teams or via the Shrewsbury Community Health Trust. There is no charge for this service but should home tuition exceed 6 months then a charge may be made to the home school.

Referral to the Shropshire Community Health Trust for home tuition can be made by contacting The Trust's Dedicated Clinical Officer, Catherine Smith following links to Shropshire's SEND Local Offer: local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk. Medical evidence will be required.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The Federation will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.



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Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them. The Federation will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at the school and the staff providing the education otherwise.

The school will provide to the LA, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils who are not attending school regularly, including if this is due to any additional health needs.

3. Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school. The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

During a lengthy absence, a reintegration plan will be developed near to the likely date of return to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill pupil 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 accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days. Any such arrangements will always have the aim of a pupil resuming full-time education and be accompanied by clear review dates.

The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEN devolved budget or via review and referral to the SEN panel.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both the Federation and the education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence. The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Headteacher, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Headteacher will report to the Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.