



The Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust

Policy for children with medical needs who cannot attend school

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Status & Review Cycle;	Statutory and bi-annually
Responsible group:	Governing Body
Implementation date:	September 2022
Next Review Date:	September 2023

Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust

Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy works 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.

Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy 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 guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013.

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.

Purpose & Scope

1. Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Teams to make arrangements for supporting pupils at the Academy with medical conditions. The statutory guidance for this can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>
2. This policy is intended to ensure that governing bodies meet their legal obligations and sets out the arrangements that the academy will make to support children.

Key Principles

The school 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.

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed for the pupil.

Responsibilities

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 school's resources or via the Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES- www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ghes)

The GHES Outpatient Team provide tuition at home (or alternative venues) when a pupil is unable to return to school after discharge from hospital or when they are unable to attend school for medical reasons and are being cared for in the community.

GHEs is registered as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) commissioned by the Gloucestershire County Council. The aim of the service is to address inclusion and reintegration issues specific to young people with medical needs; making it possible for a child to have a seamless educational transition between hospital, home and school.

Referrals

Referrals for support from the Outpatient Team are generally made by hospital consultants, community paediatricians or tier 3 CYPS (Children and Young People's Service) formerly CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental health Services).

Up to full-time equivalent education is on offer and medical professionals guide GHEs on the appropriate amount and type of provision for each pupil according to their health needs.

Support is made available as appropriate to the needs of the individual young person and their ability to access the support. Provision is reviewed regularly. Each pupil receives a bespoke, personalised education package.

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.

Other agencies may be involved, such as CYPS. If so, a My Plan + document will be required.

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 school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education 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.
- 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 school will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at the school and the staff providing the education otherwise.

Reintegration into the School

The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, 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.

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.

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.

Both the school 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.

References

Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs, DfES 0025/2002

Children and Families Act (2014)

Equality Act (2010)

Gloucestershire Local Authority Guidance for Schools: Supporting Children with Medical Needs

Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES)

Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE December 2015)

The Education of Children with Medical Needs, Ofsted HMI 1713, pub. 2003