



HEADLANDS SCHOOL  
SINCE 1965

# Children with Health Needs Not Attending School Policy

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## Headlands School

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#### 1. Aims

Headlands School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within the school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

#### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including:

- Education Act 1996;
- Safeguarding Children in whom illness is fabricated or induced (DfE 2008);
- Equality Act 2010;
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (statutory guidance for local authorities DfE January 2013);
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE December 2015);
- Data Protection Act 2018;
- School Attendance (DfE September 2018).

#### 3. Definition of children with health needs not attending school

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: The East Riding LA home tuition service acts as a communication channel between the school and students. This service is accessible to students when a written recommendation is obtained from a hospital consultant, senior clinical medical officer or specialist medical team stating that the child is unable to attend school and tuition is appropriate;
- Where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment;
- Medical Pupil Referral Units (PRUs): these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

#### **4. The responsibilities of the school.**

The school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring arrangements for working from home or hospital with parents/carers.

Arrangements could include:

- Sending work home;
- Attending a hospital school;
- A member of the Support for Learning Team working directly with the family in support of activities prepared by class teachers;
- Blended learning arrangements.

Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

Students will be slowly integrated back into school by using alternative arrangements, such as alternative provision at break or lunch times, or a reduced timetable to meet their health needs.

The LA will make arrangements if the school can't make suitable arrangements. In this case the LA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

#### **5. The role of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).**

- Coordinating with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs;
- Notifying the LA when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs;
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the SENCO will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the student's absence;
- Liaising with students' education providers, regarding information about the child;
- For hospital admissions, the SENCO will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the student is in hospital;
- Communicating the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students and checking these are understood by all;
- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented;
- Monitoring student progress and reintegration into school;
- Providing appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs;
- Sharing suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible

effect the condition and/or medication has on the student with teachers.

#### **6. The role of teachers and support staff.**

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs;
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the health needs information from the SENCO;
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason;
- Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training;
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of the medical condition and know what to do in an emergency.

#### **7. The responsibilities of the Local Authority (LA).**

It is the responsibility of the LA to provide education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. The LA should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student.

The LA should ensure the education is of good quality, allows students to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school.

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work constructively with the LA to:

- Plan for consistent provision, including the curriculum and materials used in school as far as possible;
- Enable the student to stay in touch with school life through newsletters, emails, or internet links to lessons from the school as far as possible;
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

#### **8. Links to other policies.**

This policy links to other school policies, including:

- Accessibility Plan;
- Attendance Policy;
- Blended Learning Policy;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy