Policy for Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Sir John Heron Primary School

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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 is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, which can be found here: https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/attendance-exclusion-1/6.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The school is responsible for:

- Providing a pupil's education if they are going to be absent for up to 15 school days.
- Telling the Local Authority if a pupil has been away from school for more than 15 school days.

3.1 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.

- It will be the responsibility of the class teacher, supported by the SENCO when appropriate, to devise a programme of work for the pupil to follow. The SENCO or another member of the Senior Leadership Team will monitor that this is being provided in a timely manner.
- Arrangements may include one or more of the following; virtual teaching sessions, programmes of work being posted physically or online, resources being sent home. If a child is in hospital for an extended period of time and is not attending hospital school, a member of school staff may deliver work to the ward.

- Parents and pupils when appropriate will be contacted at least weekly for feedback on the learning. These discussions will be recorded using our school's monitoring system. Any additional requests for support asked for by the parents will be given when possible.
- How pupils will be reintegrated into school will be dependent on their personal circumstances but may initially include reduced hours.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, **Newham Local Authority** will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
    - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy