



# REDHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

November 2021



### 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 the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, Staffordshire County Council: [file:///red-sr-001/Staff/clairfreeman/Downloads/children\\_who\\_are\\_missing\\_education\\_due\\_to\\_health\\_medical\\_needs\\_april\\_2019.pdf](file:///red-sr-001/Staff/clairfreeman/Downloads/children_who_are_missing_education_due_to_health_medical_needs_april_2019.pdf)

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

This policy can be read in conjunction with the following document: Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, statutory guidance for local authorities, published in January 2013.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/269469/health\\_needs\\_guidance\\_-\\_revised\\_may\\_2013\\_final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/269469/health_needs_guidance_-_revised_may_2013_final.pdf)

### 3. The responsibilities of the Local Authority

Role of the Local Authority:

**Local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education otherwise than at school for children who reside in Staffordshire, who cannot attend school because of illness or other reasons and who therefore would not receive suitable education without such provision. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever the type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in academies, free schools, special schools and independent schools as well as those in maintained schools.**

Local authorities must:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Local authorities should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative
- They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals, to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education they receive is of good quality, as defined in the DfE's statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping 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. ‘Hard and fast’ rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to pupils with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

Local authorities **should not**:

- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost (meeting the child’s needs and providing a good education must be the determining factors).
- 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).

### 3. The responsibilities of the school

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parent / carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- It is recommended by the LA that schools initiate an Early Help Assessment (EHA) if one is not already in place. The outcome of the EHA may require support and advice from Local Support Teams and Health professionals. This in turn will then inform an accurate and agreed personalised care plan. Support may be offered by the School Nurse, GP, CAMHS or other medical professional. Please be mindful that parental consent and knowledge is vital and that the views of the young person should also be taken into account.
- Both the school and the local authority must consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made in order to ensure that CYP are not disadvantaged in their access to education, as well as ensuring that they are not directly or indirectly discriminated against. Some children with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case governing bodies and management committees must comply with their duties under that Act. Therefore, although the CYP’s needs may principally be medical, they may have special educational needs as well, because the medical issues mean that their ability to access education has been profoundly affected. This may be to the extent that, despite their intellectual abilities, they are unable to access education at the same rate as before and therefore need to realistically take a lot longer to complete courses of study, and that may require an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- With the support of the pupil’s school pastoral provision and local agencies, the pupil can be expected to attend school on a more regular basis, remaining on the roll of the pupil’s school. If provision for education is deemed appropriate at home, there would need to be a clear phased reintegration plan of when the pupil is able to transition back to full time education within their school.
- A child unable to attend school because of health needs **must not**, therefore, be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school medical officer, even if the local authority (LA) has become responsible for the child’s education as a result of the pupil being

absent from school for 15 or more days. Continuity is important for children and knowing that they can return to their familiar surroundings and school friends can help their recovery and their educational progress.

### **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.

You may want to add more details on areas such as:

Our school SENCo **Heather Geobey** and Pastoral Lead **Alison Coker** will be responsible for completing a care plan and making reasonable arrangements in school

Reasonable arrangements can include:

- Providing home learning / Remote Learning
- Arranging and Supporting with EHA support.
- Completing and reviewing Care plans

School will work in partnership with children, families and wider professionals to plan out education provision that best suits children's needs. This will be set out in an Individual Education Plan.

If child is attending part-time (as agreed by Local Authority) a Reintegration plan will also be established to ensure that the child's return to school is planned.

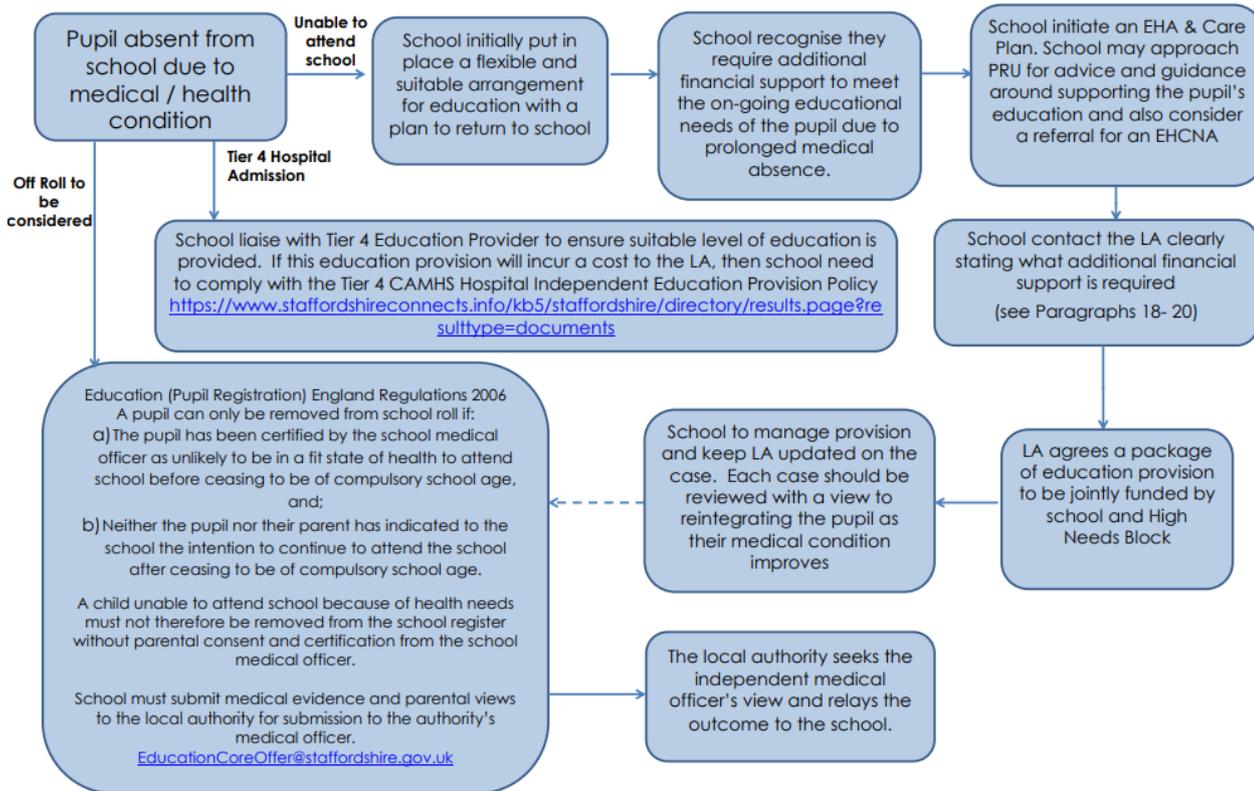
### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

The Local Authority's named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs is the Head of Vulnerable Learners 0-25 and can be contacted by emailing [send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:send.tippingst@staffordshire.gov.uk)

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Staffordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

How to refer a child to the Local Authority Health Officer:

## Compulsory School Age Pupils not able to attend School due to Health/Medical Needs



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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by C Freeman (EYFS Lead) At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## 5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Safeguarding Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Inclusion Policy

**Approved by:** Nov 2021

**Last reviewed on:** Nov 2021

**Next review due by:** September 2022