Statutory Policy

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

See also:

- First Aid Policy
- Supporting Pupils in Schools with Medical Conditions Policy

1. Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Oak Green School is aware of our responsibility for children and young people on our roll who have health needs which prevent them coming into school for a period of time. We have the following arrangements in place to minimise as far as is possible, the disruption to their schooling by continuing to provide education as normally as the incapacity allows.

2. Implementing the policy

- The Governing Board is legally responsible under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions.
- They ensure that policies, plans and procedures to support children with medical conditions are properly and effectively implemented.
- This includes children who, by reason of illness may not for any period be in school to receive suitable education.
- Governors ensure the policy identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in supporting medical conditions.
- The policy is reviewed regularly and is accessible to parents and school staff.

Designated member/s of staff **(H Wilkins, S Cox & L Gregory)** has/have overall responsibility for effective policy implementation and are responsible for staff training so that sufficient staff are competent to take on responsibility to support pupils in school who have medical conditions. They are also to liaise with the local authority (LA) and other partners to ensure that pupils who are unable to come to school because of illness or injury receive suitable education.

- Every child on roll who has a medical condition is given an individual healthcare plan (IHP), which is drawn up in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals and, whenever appropriate, the child. Where a child has a special educational need identified in an EHC plan, the IHP should be linked to or become part of that plan. If a child has SEN but does not have an EHC plan, that need is mentioned in their IHP. We also draw up short or longer term IHPs for our pupils who are unable to come into school because of their medical needs, in liaison with other agencies involved.

3. Provision for children who cannot attend school because of illness

In line with section 19 of the Education Act 1996, a LA has a duty to ensure that arrangements are in place for the provision of suitable education for those children of compulsory school age who by reason of illness may not for any period receive suitable education, unless such arrangements are made for them. This applies to children and young people:

- Who are of statutory school age
- Who are not in school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, due to ill health
- Who are permanently resident in the school's catchment area
- Where the health need and necessity for absence have been validated as necessary by a medical doctor or other appropriately qualified consultant.
- Who will not receive a suitable full-time education unless alternative arrangements are made for this by the school and the LA, working with other agencies such as the health professionals, social services, hospital school service etc.
- In cases of EBSNA (Emotional School Based Non-Attendance) the school will try a range of strategies before applying for section 19 support.

It is the responsibility of the school to work with partners to ensure that the provision for a child unable to attend school because of illness or injury will start as quickly as possible. Once assured that provision is in

place, the LA will only intervene if it has reason to think that the educational provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient. The education may be provided in a variety of ways

- Through part-time education at the school the child normally attends and supplemented by additional work to be done at home.
- School to home liaison, using digital media, virtual classrooms or homework.
- A hospital school if the child has to spend periods of time in hospital.
- Attendance at an AP centre.
- Home tuition.

4. Transport

The provision of temporary transport for a pupil on medical grounds to and from school can sometimes enable a pupil to attend school who would not otherwise be able to do so, even if this can only be part-time. The school will process requests for transport on medical grounds through BC LA. Transport for pupils in wheelchairs can usually be arranged.

5. Reintegration into school

We are aware that returning to school after a period of illness or injury can be an emotional hurdle for our pupils.

- While the pupil is away from school, we do encourage his/her peers to keep in touch through cards and letters and to visit where appropriate.
- The class teacher will also keep in touch with the pupil and his/her parents and keep them informed of school events.
- We also invite the child or young person to attend special school events wherever possible and make great efforts to ensure that they feel welcome if they are able to come.
- When a return to school is likely, we consult with the child and parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues and the timing of return including the writing of any specific risk assessments (typically for broken bones).
- Where possible, we encourage the child to come into school part-time during the period of ill health, as a useful half-way house to full re-integration.
- Young people with medical conditions are generally entitled to variations with regard to the sitting of public examinations. We want our pupils' academic prospects to be kept as open as possible, so the school will discuss this with others involved and see what can be arranged in the best interests of the pupil.

The child's case is reviewed every 4-6 weeks to see whether the situation has altered in any way, whether a continuation of the current arrangements is needed or whether a process of re-integration can be started.

Equal Opportunities Statement

This policy applies to all and does not unlawfully discriminate because of the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the school governors and reviewed annually, or as new legislation determines.