

GREAT BOOKHAM SCHOOL



Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Review:	Autumn 2024

Introduction

Great Bookham School works in partnership with children, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children with medical needs, who are unable to attend school, to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. Our School will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to children 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.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- 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.
- The School will liaise with the Local Authority as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- The School must address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children 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.

School's Responsibility

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. 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. Where possible, school will support the planning of the educational programme of the pupil by the service provider, taking appropriate account 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 and short term planning
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data and any special educational need information.

Where practical, the School will attend 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 and the staff providing the education.

The School will liaise with parents regularly, whether the child is in hospital or has returned home. The child will also be involved, where appropriate. This will help ensure that the right provision is offered and encourage the child's commitment to it.

Reintegration into the School

The School will work with all relevant providers of education including doctors, educational psychologists and Personal Advisers, as well as the pupil and their parents/carers, to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school. The School will ensure that the child and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the child whilst absent, will play a significant role in helping the child to settle back into school. The School will accept part-time attendance where children are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the child is able to attend full time. The School will make arrangements for children 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 considered and additional support may be required. 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 written and virtual communication.

The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the child's absence and a folder of work on return to school. The Headteacher, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a child's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body on the educational provision which has been made for children absent for medical reasons.

Links to other policies

Safeguarding and Child Protection
Children Missing in Education
Loss and Bereavement
Equalities
Bullying Prevention
Behaviour