Grace Academy Coventry

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Applicable to	All Academies
Checked by	LGB
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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 reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, Coventry. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school

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

3. The Responsibilities of the Academy

The Academy will ensure that where a student is going to be absent for genuine medical reasons for a period of time, the student is provided with appropriate work that they can access from home or, if required, hospital.

The local authority states that they have responsibility to:

- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the 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 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

How many days a child would need to be absent from school?

Where a student will be absent for 15 school days or more, for a medical reason, whether consecutive or not, the Academy will follow the procedures within this policy to ensure the student is able to access an education.

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.

The lead for Medical Needs in the Academy is: Rebecca Wildman

Supported by: Laura Holt

Work may be provided in electronic or paper format but liaison will be made with the student and their parent / carer to ensure this is accessible.

Students will be given an appropriate reintegration for their return to the Academy following a prolonged period of absence. This might include:

- Phased return

- Opportunity for catch-up
- Support staff sessions
- Alternative timetable
- Any other reasonable adjustment deemed necessary

How would it be decided if arrangements are 'suitable'?

Arrangements will be put together by the medical lead in liaison with other key staff both internal and external, as required. The Head of Key Stage will authorise the work being provided is appropriate for the student's age and needs. Furthermore, where appropriate, the SEND team will be consulted to ensure the work is accessible for students with any additional needs.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

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

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

The provision set out in this policy will be managed by the medical lead in the Academy and members of the Academy leadership team.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Academy Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

This is a statutory policy.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- SEND Policy and Information Report
- Attendance Policy