



## Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

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**Approved by: Mr Joe  
Wilson**

**Date: 10/05/2021**

**Last reviewed on:  
10/05/2021**

**Next review due by:  
Summer 2024**

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## Introduction

Partnership Learning aims to support the Local Authority of their schools to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

At James Cambell Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education Guidance and work with Barking and Dagenham Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where the child can still attend school with some support. Where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school, we would not expect the Local Authority to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.

## 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

## Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010

- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'

- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following Partnership Learning and School policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority

## Responsibility of the Barking and Dagenham Local Authority

**Where the Local Authority is involved in arranging provision, the expectation from the school is that the Local Authority will:**

- 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.
- 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 children receive is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Set up a personal education plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school or other provider can work together.
- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs, and parents should know who that person is. This person is the inclusion lead.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs. The policy should make links with related services in the area - for example, Special Educational Needs and Disability
  - Services (SEND), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Education
  - Welfare/Attendance Improvement Services, educational psychologists, and, where relevant, school nurses.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Have clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

## The responsibilities of our school

When a Child/children with health needs cannot attend school the Assistant head/Phase leader working with the Social inclusion officer will:

- Consult with parents to make arrangements for the collection/postage/MySchoolApp /ClassDojo or work that the child will miss while not in school
- Arrange for work to be planned and sent home via ClassDojo, or the post to the child's address.
- The class teacher to make weekly phone calls to check on the child's progress and welfare
- Arrange for work to be planned and given to families with children in hospital.
- Work with the family to reintegrate the pupil/pupils back into school.
- Refer children missing education due to health conditions to the local authority.

## Monitoring arrangements

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