STANBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School Policy

Committee Responsible:	Full Governing Body
Review Date:	June 2026
Reviewed By:	Full Governing Body
Next Review Date:	June 2028
Name and Signature	C Crane

To be read in conjunction with Harrow Education Services: Education Support for Children unable to attend school because of medical needs
https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/26506/health-needs-policy.pdf

Our Aims and Approach

Our school aims to ensure that children who are unable to attend school because of their medical needs continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, so that they are able to keep up with their studies.

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical/health needs will include those with:

- Physical injuries
- Physical health issues
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties/school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illness
- Chronic illnesses

Health problems include physical illnesses, injuries and clinically defined mental health problems. Suitable medical evidence will be required. This would include details of the health problem, how long the condition is expected to last and the likely outcome, and a treatment plan. This must be provided by a suitable medical professional, normally a hospital consultant. However, where specific medical evidence is not available quickly, the local authority will liaise with other medical professionals (e.g. the child's GP), so that provision of education is not delayed.

Arrangements for alternative education will not normally be made for children and young people below or above compulsory school age. Arrangements for alternative provision will be made as soon as it is known that a child has not attended school for 15 days for health reasons or as soon as it is clear that a health-related absence from school will be 15 days or longer, verified by a medical doctor. The 15 days may be consecutive or cumulative. The provision will commence as quickly as possible. There may be circumstances in which suitable alternative education is already in place e.g. if the school has already made remote learning arrangements for a pupil or the pupil is receiving education at a hospital school. In such circumstances, the local authority will intervene only if it has reason to think that the education provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient.

Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education:

- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs 2013
- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996

Roles and Responsibilities

The child is responsible for:

- Managing their own health needs and medicines where appropriate
- Taking their medicines themselves or manage procedures, this may require an appropriate level of supervision. Staff should not force a child to take their medicine or carry out a necessary procedure if the child refuses. Instead they should follow the procedure agreed in the individual healthcare plan and inform the child's parents

The parent/guardian is responsible for:

- Ensuring school is made aware of any changes to the individual healthcare plan or education support plan
- Keeping school updated about absences
- Attending meetings to discuss how support should be planned
- Providing any medication in line with the school's medicine protocols, outlined in the Children with Medical and/or Intimate Care Needs Policy
- Working with school to ensure the best possible outcomes for the child or young person

The school is responsible for:

- Following the practice detailed below
- Providing relevant medical training for staff enabling them to support pupils with medical/health needs
- Ensuring staff are appropriately insured to support pupils with medical/health needs
- Ensuring written records are kept of medicines administered
- Ensuring support is accessible from local nursing services. School nurses would not usually have an extensive role in ensuring that schools are taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions, but may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training
- Ensuring staff that provide support to pupils are able to access information and other support materials as needed

The governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions/health needs and that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented

Health services (CAMHS/NHS/GP) are responsible for:

- Ensuring that a holistic approach is taken regarding the welfare of the child by facilitating timely access to appropriate advice and to effective services which address their health, social, education and emotional needs throughout the period of their illness
- Establishing clear procedures for school staff, which enable children who are in their care to participate in education
- Making arrangements at a strategic level for co-operation and planning between the health service and the education service

- Agreed protocols for sharing information about children who are ill between the health service and the education service
- Preparing individual healthcare plans relevant to the pupil's medical/health need
- Leading on identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required, and how this can be obtained
- Providing confirmation of the proficiency of staff in a medical procedure or in providing medication
- Suggesting training that should be sufficient to ensure school staff are confident and have confidence in their ability to support pupils with medical/health conditions. They will need an understanding of the specific medical/health conditions they are asked to deal with
- Arranging for a health professional to participate in multi-agency meetings to plan and monitor the child's education and return to school once educational provision has been agreed

In some cases, the nature of a child's illness may be unclear. Mental health problems in particular can involve frequent or long absence from school. A mental health condition may for example manifest itself in truancy, school refusal or disruptive behaviour. Medical needs of this kind include conduct or hyperactivity disorders, emotional disorders such as depression, anxiety and in some cases psychosis. In such cases, mental health professionals should:

- Make every effort to provide the medical evidence necessary for the child to secure eligibility for educational support as quickly as possible

Our Practice

We will:

- Ensure that there is a named person who is responsible for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs: **Mrs R Malik (Assistant Head teacher)**
- In the case of a pupil who is expected to be absent for 15 working days or less, and where this is not part of a pattern of absence related to a chronic or recurring illness, make arrangements in liaison with the pupil's parents to provide the pupil with home learning as soon as they become able to cope with it

Where pupils are admitted to hospital, we will work closely with the education staff in a hospital to:

- Ensure that information about the pupil's curriculum, their achievements and any special educational needs that they may have is provided promptly
- Provide appropriate work and materials promptly and regularly
- Be active in the monitoring of progress and in the smooth reintegration into school, liaising with other agencies as necessary
- Ensure that pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs are kept informed about school social events
- Encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, for example through visits, videos, messages

For absences that are expected to last for more than 15 working days, and where a pupil has a medical/health or physical condition, we will:

- Confirm the pupil's absence with relevant medical services and parents
- Discuss arrangements that would be needed to ensure pupil's continued access to education

- Review arrangements to ensure that the pupil returns to school as soon as they are medically able to do so and any reintegration arrangements that should be considered, e.g. a phased return
- For a pupil where the medical/health needs involves a psychological or mental health difficulty or emotional difficulties/school refusal, the school may refer to CAMHS for a review of the pupils needs. A referral to an Education Psychologist may be considered. The School will undertake a risk management plan for pupils who are at significant risk of self-harm. We may also make a referral to the Local Authority for further guidance and support for both school and family

Where health services are involved, we will

- Ask for confirmation of the length of the pupil's absence
- Ask for guidance on the pupil's ability to cope with educational provision
- Ask for guidance on the kind of arrangements that would be needed to ensure the pupil's continued access to education
- Ask for guidance on the length of time that the pupil is likely to be absent and therefore in need of support
- Ask for guidance on whether the illness is chronic and therefore whether future absences are likely and tuition will be needed without the need to re-refer
- Ask for guidance on the review arrangements to ensure that the pupil returns to school as soon as they are medically able to do so and any reintegration arrangements that should be considered
- Ask for guidance on the treatment or support that the pupil is to receive through the Health Service to support their return to health and mainstream schooling

Public Examinations

Efficient and effective liaison is important when children with medical/health needs are approaching public examinations. Awarding bodies will make special arrangements for children with permanent or long-term illnesses or indispositions when taking public examinations and the school will submit applications for special arrangements as early as possible.

SEND

Children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) who have individual Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) will continue to receive Annual Reviews organised by the school. The schools Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will be regularly involved in liaison with the school and the SEND team.

Review and Reintegration

Decisions about when and how a pupil should return to school following illness need to take account of a wide range of views, including those of the pupil, their parents/carers and school as well as any health services involved. It is essential that each pupil receiving off-site tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs is reviewed at least half termly. This should involve staff at school, parents and any health educational service involved. When the pupil is considered well enough to return to school, staff at school will develop an individually tailored reintegration plan in liaison with the pupil, their parents/carers and other agencies who are actively

involved. Strategies for successful reintegration will be a key element of the child's individual support plan.

The reintegration strategy should include:

- Date for planned reintegration once known
- Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration
- Clearly stated responsibilities and rights of all those involved
- Details of social contacts including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period
- A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration
- Follow up procedures

Where the pupil might benefit from a phased return to school, the staff at school may plan to reduce the weekly timetable in school in an attempt to support a successful reintegration to full time schooling

Harrow Attendance Team

The Harrow Attendance Team play a vital role in resolving attendance issues, importantly that of identification of attendance problems linked to medical/health needs. Where appropriate the Attendance Team may monitor the attendance of pupils with medical/health needs alongside school staff, and offer further guidance and support to parents/carers.

Equal Opportunities

We will strive to ensure that equal opportunities are fundamental to our assessment of circumstances and to the service provided, recognising strengths and addressing areas of difficulty on an individual basis. Pupils with long-term or recurring medical conditions will have an Individual Support Plan initiated and monitored.

Monitoring

The school will nominate a teacher to act as the named contact for each child who will facilitate communication generally between the pupil/parent and the school, arrange reviews and keep records. The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers so that they show if a pupil is, or ought to be, receiving education otherwise than at school. Children will not be removed from school registers unless medical evidence states that the child will be unable to attend school for the rest of their compulsory schooling.