



Children Missing Education

Document Control		
Date of Draft:	09/11/2020	
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Draft Approved By:	Name	
Final Approval:	Final Date	Governors (Curriculum & QA)
	Approval Signatory	
Policy Type:	Statutory	
Publication:	All	
Review Date:	11/11/2024	
Review Cycle	Triennial	

Children Missing Education

Introduction

"...all children, regardless of circumstance or setting should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures"

DfE 2013

Stephen Hawking School aims to support the Local Authority to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows to enable them to reach their full potential.

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 own school. 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 that prohibit them from attending school, receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with school.

Legal Requirements

1. 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'
2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:
 - Attendance Policy
 - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
 - The Staff Code of Conduct
 - Data Protection Policy Records Management Policy
 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
 - Medical Conditions Policy
 - Remote Learning Policy

Aims & Objectives

- To ensure that all children have continued meaningful and relevant access to education throughout their time at Stephen Hawking School

Implementation

LA duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of medical needs, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The school has a duty to support the LA in doing so.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil. Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is. For Tower Hamlets Primary Schools, this is Claudine Rausch. She is contactable via the Tower Hamlets SEND section and Pupil Services.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.

- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without

suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

Definitions

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

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.

Children with chronic illnesses or complex health needs:

Stephen Hawking School believes that all children should attend school regardless of any medical need that they may have. The school is supported by the NHS, via the Community Nursing Team, who provide full time nurses and Health Care Assistants across both Stephen Hawking School sites. As a result, we deem there is little reason for children to be absent from school on a regular basis.

Where a child's frequent absence from school is apportioned, by their parents, as being too unwell to attend, the school will contact the LA via the Education Welfare Advisor and the SEND panel. It is the responsibility of these agencies to make a decision about the most appropriate organisation to provide education for the pupil.

We will work with families and supporting professionals involved with children who are unable to attend school for health reasons. On occasion, they may have arrangements made using any of the following:

- Hospital school, provided by London East Alternative Provision (LEAP): a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment, contact will be maintained as per the school's attendance policy.
- Home Tuition from Stephen Hawking School

Provision of home tuition should not be considered the norm for any child who is on roll at Stephen Hawking School. Home tuition should only be considered as a last resort and only where a medical practitioner has stated that the pupil is too unwell to attend school.

This will be in agreement with the parents and, where the child is too unwell to be seen daily, an agreement will be reached with the parents as to an appropriate number of visits.

It will always be offered under the direction of a teacher. This does not mean that the teacher will attend all sessions. The teacher will always plan the lessons and these will then be carried out by a suitably experienced teaching assistant.

Activities undertaken will be assessed using observations recorded by the visiting teaching assistant and, usually, by a visit from the child's designated teacher. As far as possible assessment will be completed in line with the school's assessment recording and reporting policy.

Teaching sessions will take place in the family home, where appropriate, so that all medical procedures can be carried out by the child's parents/carers.

All home tuition provided by Stephen Hawking School will be organised with the agreement of the pupil's family. Where this becomes problematic the difficulties should be referred back to the SEN Panel.

Assessment

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by all relevant stakeholders and any amendments necessary will be communicated to all staff.