



# CARLINGHOW ACADEMY

## **Children with health needs who cannot attend school**

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### **School Aims and Implementation**

Carlinghow Academy aims to provide children the opportunity to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable all children equally to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning entitlement and environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.

### **Equal opportunities:**

Our school is clear about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so.

The school will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these pupils to participate fully and safely on school trips, visits and sporting activities.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. In doing so, pupils, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

### **Aims**

At Carlinghow Academy we aim to support the LA and 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 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 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.

This policy aims to ensure that:

## **1. Legislation and guidance**

1.1. 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'

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Data Protection Policy Records Management Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

## **2. Definitions**

2.1. 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.

### **Chronic illnesses.**

2.2. Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions
- Where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.

- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

#### **3.1. The Principal is responsible for:**

- Working with the governing board to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Providing annual reports to the governing board on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

#### **3.2 The Safeguarding Support Officer is responsible for:**

- The attendance officer will initially be responsible for monitoring pupil attendance. Once it has been established that will be off for more than 3 days then discussions will be made between the Pastoral team, SENDCo and class teacher with regards to sending work home. This will be discussed with parents via a telephone call.

#### **3.3. The SENDCo is responsible for:**

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA.

### **3.4. Teachers and support staff are responsible for:**

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason. Initially the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will be done through Seesaw <https://web.seesaw.me/> and each pupil has a secure personal login for this. There will have a selection of work that the children would be currently studying in class. These will be set by the class teacher and will be based on what children are doing in the class and the academic need of the child at the time of absence. Pupils will be able to respond and receive feedback via the programme.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

### **3.5. Parents are expected to:**

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

### **Responsibilities of Kirklees Council**

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.

- If a child is going to be absent for more than 15 days and suitable provision is unable to be made by the school a referral to the Medical Needs Team will be done.
- In these circumstances parents/ carers must bring in medical evidence confirming why the pupil is unable to attend and stating how long this is likely to be the case.
- Once a referral has been made the Medical Needs Team Manager will notify the school accordingly and a planning meeting will be arranged to confirm the appropriate arrangements that will be put in place. This will be done in consultation with health care professionals.

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

#### **4. Reintegration**

- When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA.
- The school will work with the LA and other professionals when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.
- As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.

- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- The school is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.
- The reintegration plan will include: The date for planned reintegration, once known. Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration. Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil. Clearly stated responsibilities and the 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.

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo. At every review it will be approved by the Trust Board.