

# Tilston Parochial CE Primary School

Bringing out the Best in Everyone.

*'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:1*



Tilston Parochial  
CE Primary School

## Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Date of policy: March 2023
Review cycle: Annual
Reviewed by: Kelsey Mort
Approved by: Achievement and Safeguarding Committee
Next review date: March 2025

This guidance applies to pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs, who are physically ill or injured, and those who may be experiencing periods of mental ill health. It is based on the good practice that already exists in schools and draws upon the statutory guidance, "Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs" (DFE 2013)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/269469/health\\_needs\\_guidance\\_-\\_revised\\_may\\_2013\\_final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/269469/health_needs_guidance_-_revised_may_2013_final.pdf)

### **Aim of the Policy:**

The primary aim of educating children and young people who cannot attend school due to illness or medical reasons is to minimise, as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling by continuing education as normally as their health needs allow. Pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs and the nature of the educational provision made must be responsive to the demands of a changing medical status. The aim of the policy is to ensure pupils with health problems receive suitable, good quality, full time education for the period they are unable to access mainstream school. Full time education is not defined in law but it should equate to what the pupil would normally have in school. There is a recognition that pupils may not be able to access full time education due to their health needs, in which case they should be provided with as much education as their health condition allows. If the provision is through one to one tuition, the number of hours provision could be less as the provision is more concentrated. A broad and balanced curriculum will be planned for where appropriate with a flexible approach to take account of changing health needs.

There is a recognition that there will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive a suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority. By placing the education and health needs of the child central to our plans, the aim is to reintegrate pupils back into mainstream education at the earliest opportunity. Whilst Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) has the responsibility to arrange education provision for medically referred pupils, we recognise there is a need for school to adopt a multi-agency approach to ensure pupils and families have access to support services such as, Education Welfare Service, Special Educational Needs Team, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Educational Psychology Team, and where relevant, school nurses. To coordinate multi agency planning, a TAF (Team Around the Family) assessment should be used, by school. At all times pupils with medical needs who are supported by Cheshire West and Chester Council must remain on the roll of our school and our school will retain overall responsibility for the pupil while they are unable to attend school.

Follow the link to the local authority policy and procedures:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/education-and-learning/medical-needs-service/medical-needs-policy-latest.pdf>

### **Responsibilities of the school**

The pupil must remain on roll of the school. The school will remain responsible for:

- producing a written policy for pupils with medical needs to reflect statutory guidance;
- nominating a named person for pupils with a medical need;
- ensuring half-termly schemes of work are available for teachers to assist in the teaching of pupils;
- providing the Education Access Team with pupil information regarding attainment levels and progress;

- providing the Education Access Team with appropriate learning resources to assist the pupil to learn and the teacher to teach;
- all agreed examination entries and ensuing examination fees;
- assessment of coursework;
- convening Annual Review meetings for those pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan;
- arranging review meetings to discuss pupil progress, the medical condition of the pupil, and the continued involvement of the Education Access Team;
- liaising with the Education Access Team to develop a re-integration plan and also provide support for reintegration, as agreed. Schools have a key role to play in promoting successful reintegration by:
  - ensuring their part in the reintegration plan is carried out;
- being proactive in working with all agencies to support smooth transition;
- ensuring that the pupil's educational needs are met;
- ensuring that pupil reintegration is supported by involving pupil peers;
- Encouraging and facilitating liaison with peers, for example, through visits and TEAMS/Zoom

**Responsibilities of Cheshire West and Chester Education Access Team The Education Access Team will be responsible for:**

- assessing all referrals to the service and brokering provision for those pupils who sufficiently trigger an intervention;
- arranging a case manager to facilitate and monitor the agreed support plan;
- arranging access to an Education Outreach Officer, where appropriate;
- contacting schools to arrange a planning meeting prior to the commencement of education provision;
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the education provision to ensure it meets the needs of individual pupils;
- arranging full time education for a child with health needs, or as much education as their health condition allows. (If education is one-to-one teaching the number of teaching hours could be less as the provision is more concentrated.)
- sending regular reports to schools, parents and child regarding pupil progress;
- ensuring that pupils have access to suitable and flexible education, and additional support appropriate to their needs;
- attending regular review meetings to determine pupil progress and future plans;
- facilitating an agreed programme of reintegration and attending any relevant planning meetings;
- liaising with health professionals to review the medical condition of the pupil

**Responsibility of Parents:**

We expect parents to:

- support their child attend any medical treatment or therapeutic programme recommended by any other agency as part of a rehabilitation and reintegration package. Isolated education provision sessions do not in themselves support a programme of reintegration nor can they give the pupil sufficient confidence to ensure a successful return to school.
- ensure their child attends suitable education provision whether this is directly provided by the Local Authority or school as outlined in Chapter 1 of 1996 Education Act. In circumstances where a pupil fails to attend or make themselves available for education provision on a regular basis without having a valid reason for absence or having an appropriate medical certificate, and where reasonable attempts have been made to support pupil attendance, education provision will be withdrawn.

- attend any planned review meetings held by school and communicate with Education Access Officer as case manager.

### **Responsibility of Health:**

We expect relevant health professionals supporting a programme of treatment for the child to:

- attend planned multiagency meetings to contribute to medical education plans
- provide updates to Education Access Officer through the monitoring and review process either by attending review meetings

### **Related Documents**

Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK

### **Service Contact Details**

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Referral forms should be sent electronically to:

wendy.williams@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or by post to: Wendy Williams Business Support Officer