



EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Deykin Avenue Junior and Infant School achieved UNICEF's Silver award in February 2017. The RRSA is based on the principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The Rights of the Child are at the heart of our school's ethos and culture. This policy covers/ links to the following rights:

Article 23: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life

Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health

Article 28: Every child has a right to an education

This policy was adopted by the Governing Board on:

Signed Chair of Governors:

Reviewed annually, next review date September 2023.

1. Introduction

Deykin Avenue JI School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. Deykin Avenue School will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

2. Legislation and Guidance

Key legislation covering the duties and powers relating to this policy:

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by section 3a of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2014.
- Equality Act 2010
- Department for Education's statutory guidance for Local Authorities ***'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'*** January 2013.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- The School recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.

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- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

3. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, we will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. This can be in paper format or posted online, e.g. on the website, through Dojo, etc.

When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, the school will contact the Local Education Authority and request alternative provision. This may include home tuition or hospital teaching.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the Local Authority teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas that the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, the school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

We aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing to the alternative provision provider the following information:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Curriculum overviews and curriculum maps
- Topic overview
- Curriculum Rationale
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs and/or disabilities

Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

4. Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, any other relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role in helping the pupil settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

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The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessments and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as ensuring that regular communication via letters, newsletters, e-mail or group text.

The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school. This information will be shared with the pupil's class teacher where appropriate.

The head teacher will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The head teacher will inform the Governing Board on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.

Local Authority Responsibilities (LA)

The LA must 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.

The LA should provide education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

The LA must ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision.