

The Blue Tangerine Federation

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

POLICIES, GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Staff Responsibility: Executive Headteacher

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Section	Details of change

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority;

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/education-support/get-help-to-access-learning/education-support-for-medical-absence.aspx>

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 We work with all the agencies and support accessible to the school to support the young person to return to an agreed school timetable.

We:

- support the child and his/her family with advice and strategies to help the young people manage their physical or mental health needs
- work with health professionals to advise on a support plan for the young person
- adapt learning programmes and the young person's timetable is amended accordingly over time
- make reasonable adjustments in our schools to accommodate a return
- provide teaching support (where needed) as part of a programme to help the young person back into school life
- help pupils to take part in education and return to school wherever possible via personalised and often bespoke initiatives that will support the child and family

3.2 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Head of School will coordinate who the primary liaison contact in school will be. In doing so, a programme of support for the child will be implemented including sending work home, collaboration with other services and support teams (e.g CAMHS, social care, ESMA) and plans for reintegration to school

3.3 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

3.4 The Local Authority ESMA (The Education Support for Medical Absence team)

support pupils absent from school;

- who have had, or are expecting to have, significant time off from school due to the impact of a physical or mental health condition.
- to get back into school life after a long time off due to medical reasons.
- who are moving to a new school and have physical or mental health issues impacting on their attendance.
- who have been in hospital for a long stay i.e. 5 days or more, or are in hospital regularly.
- who are pregnant from 29 weeks, or young mothers whose physical or mental health issues are affecting attendance.

Referrals to ESMA are made by the school and will identify the following information about the pupil;

- confirmation that the pupil is medically unable to attend school
- the reason for the absence (physical or mental health condition)
- what the length of the absence from school is likely to be
- current support plan on offer from the school
- supporting medical advice from the health professional who treats your child. This must show the impact the physical or mental health condition has on your child's attendance.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Executive Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions