

Mill Green School

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

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Introduction

Article 28 of the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child states that all children have the right to an education. Article 24 states that if every child has the right to the best possible health. This policy sets out the aims of Mill Green School to ensure that:

Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs

Young people, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Mill Green School aims to support the local authority (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, students should receive their education at Mill Green School and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are at Mill Green 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 should be read and understood alongside the following School and national statutory documentation and guidance:

- Mill Green School Vision and Values Statement
- The Education Act 1996
- The Education Act 2011
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs 2013
- The Equality Act 2010
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2015
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

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.
- Chronic illnesses

Children who are unable to attend Mill Green for 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: St Helens LA have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and students. Mill Green School are also able to source tuition from private services where in agreement with St Helens LA.

Local Authority Duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

Arrangements: Mill Green School

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

The appropriate Key Stage Deputy Headteacher and Key Stage Manager will be responsible for making and monitoring arrangements. A meeting will be made with parents/carers, alongside the School Family Liaison Officer to discuss arrangements from working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion and the plan will be signed by parents / carers. The plan will be carried out to deliver education to the young person.

Arrangement will primarily be via remote learning (TEAMS), Google Classroom or work packs which will be prepared, set and assessed by the appropriate class teacher. In specific cases a Teaching Assistant may attend the home/hospital to deliver some aspects of the curriculum.

The young person will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break and lunchtimes, or the young person may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

Mill Green School is responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented and meet the needs of the individual student.

- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the termly review of those students who are accessing part time timetables in school.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems and risk assessments are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained and if required arranging appropriate training.
- 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 the students' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for the student with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, the student, the LA, key workers and others involved in the student's care.
- Providing all staff who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student.
- Providing termly reports to the governing board on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of students.
- Notifying and working with the Educational Welfare System when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The named member of staff assigned are responsible for:

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

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.

- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.

- Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.

- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student's health needs.

- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of a student's medical condition and know what to do in an emergency.

Arrangements: The Local Authority

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, St Helens LA will become responsible for arranging suitable, full-time 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

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student 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 student. Ensure the education students receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, 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 students in arranging provision.

- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.

- 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 can attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.

- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether 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).

Support for Students

Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, Mill Green School will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the student.

The expectation, wherever possible, is for a student to attend a full-time education therefore under a student's individual healthcare plan, Mill Green School will make reasonable adjustments to programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.

Any student admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.

Whilst a student is away from school, Mill Green School will work to ensure the student can successfully remain in touch with the Mill Green community using the following methods:

- Emails
- Invitations to school events
- Post cards or letters from peers and staff
- Telephone calls or home visits

To help ensure a student with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member and in consultation with the LA.
- Access to additional support in school such as the Student Support Unit.
- Online access to the curriculum from home.
- More accessible movement around school.
- Places to rest at school during break and lunch.

- Special exam arrangements if applicable.

Reintegration

When a student is considered well enough to return to school, Mill Green School will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA, health professionals and other external agencies, as appropriate.

The school will work with the LA when reintegration is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.

As far as possible, the student will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.

If appropriate, the school nursing team will be involved in the development of the students 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 student.

The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the building and the curriculum.

For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the student's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on a student or their parents in the early stages of their absence.

The school is aware that some students will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the student, their parents and key personnel 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 student.
- 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.

The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage students and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

Following reintegration, the school will seek feedback from the student regarding the effectiveness of the process.

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Cassie Surrey (Deputy Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Further Reading

Mill Green School Vision and Values Statement

The Education Act 1996

The Education Act 2011

Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs 2013

The Equality Act 2010

Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2015

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

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