



ELTHORNE PARK

— HIGH SCHOOL —

Children with Health Needs that Cannot Attend School Policy

Adoption – Oct 2023

Review frequency – 3 years

Next review – Oct 2026

Status – Statutory

Committee – Curriculum

Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues or physical injuries
- Mental health problems including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

Elthorne Park High School is aware of our responsibility for children and young people on our roll who have health needs which prevent them coming into school for a period of time. We have the following arrangements in place to minimise as far as is possible, the disruption to their schooling by continuing to provide education as normally as the incapacity allows.

Implementing the policy

- The Governing Body is legally responsible under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to make arrangements to support students with medical conditions
- They ensure that policies, plans and procedures to support children with medical conditions are properly and effectively implemented
- This includes children who, by reason of illness may not for any period be in school to receive suitable education
- Governors ensure the policy identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in supporting medical conditions
- The policy is reviewed regularly and is accessible to parents and school staff
- A designated member of staff name has overall responsibility for effective policy implementation.

S/he is responsible for staff training so that sufficient staff are competent to take on responsibility to support pupils in school who have medical conditions. S/he ensures that robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, both on and off site. S/he also liaises with the local authority (LA) and other partners to ensure that pupils who are unable to come to school because of illness or injury receive suitable education.

- There is no statutory requirement to draw up an individual healthcare plan for every child on roll that has a medical condition. There can be circumstances, usually in the case of a temporary or mild condition, where a plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. Where it is felt necessary an individual healthcare plan (IHP) is drawn up in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals and, whenever appropriate, the child. If, in the unlikely case that a consensus on the advisability of an IHP cannot be reached, the Headteacher will take the final view.

- Where a child has a special educational need identified in an EHC plan, the IHP should be linked to or become part of that plan. If a child has SEN but does not have an EHC plan, that need is mentioned in their IHP.
- We also draw up short or longer term IHPs for our students who are unable to come into school because of their medical needs, in liaison with other agencies involved.

Provision for children who cannot attend school because of illness

In line with section 19 of the Education Act 1996, an LA has a duty to ensure that arrangements are in place for the provision of suitable education for those children of compulsory school age who by reason of illness may not for any period receive suitable education, unless such arrangements are made for them

This applies to children and young people:

- Who are of statutory school age
- Who are not in school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, due to ill health
- Where the health need and necessity for absence have been validated as necessary by a medical doctor or other appropriately qualified consultant
- Who will not receive a suitable full-time education unless alternative arrangements are made for this by the school and the LA, working with other agencies such as health professionals, social services, hospital school service etc.

It is the responsibility of the school to work with partners to ensure that the provision for a child unable to attend school because of illness or injury will start as quickly as possible. Once assured that provision is in place, the LA will only intervene if it has reason to think that the educational provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient.

The education may be provided in a variety of ways, including:

- Through part-time education at the school the child normally attends and supplemented by additional work to be done at home
- School to home liaison, using digital media, virtual classrooms or home learning
- A hospital school if the child has to spend periods of time in hospital
- Attendance at an AP centre or medical PRU
- Home tuition

Transport

The provision of temporary transport for a student on medical grounds to and from school can sometimes enable a student to attend school who would not otherwise be able to do so, even if this can only be part-time. The school will process requests for transport on medical grounds through the LA. Transport for students in wheelchairs can usually be arranged.

Reintegration into school

We are aware that returning to school after a period of illness or injury can be an emotional hurdle for our pupils.

- While the student is away from school, we do encourage his/her peers to keep in touch via social media, through cards and letters and to visit where appropriate
- The form tutor will also keep in touch with the student and his/her parents and keep them informed of school events
- We also invite the child or young person to attend special school events wherever possible and make great efforts to ensure that they feel welcome if they are able to come
- When a return to school is likely, we consult with the child and parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues and the timing of return
- We will have in place a named member of staff who has responsibility for the student's reintegration plan
- Where possible, we encourage the child to come into school part-time during the period of ill health, as a useful half-way house to full reintegration
- When the child is back in school, we will try if necessary provide a personalised timetable
- Also if necessary we can move lessons to more accessible rooms
- We will also provide places in school where the child can rest if needed
- Young people with medical conditions are generally entitled to variations with regard to the sitting of public examinations. We want our students' academic prospects to be kept as open as possible, so the school will discuss this with others involved and see what can be arranged in the best interests of the pupil.

The child's case is reviewed every four to six weeks to see whether the situation has altered in any way, whether a continuation of the current arrangements is necessary or whether a process of re-integration can be started.

This policy is reviewed every 3 years by the Governing Body.

The policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Supporting children with medical conditions/needs policy
- Student attendance policy
- Safeguarding and Child protection policy
- SEND policy