



# **HAILEY HALL SCHOOL**

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## **CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY**

**Board of Trustees approved:**

**Date last reviewed: Autumn 2021**

**Review date: Autumn 2022**

**Responsible Committee: Board of Trustees**

**Person Responsible: SENDCo**

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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 / carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

**Education Support for Medical Absence** is part of ISL (**Integrated Services for Learning**) and aims to provide support to Hertfordshire schools, which have pupils who are temporarily unable to attend their school programme due to the impact of their medical condition.

Education Support for Medical Absence is underpinned by the following Government documents:

- Children and Families Act, 2014, section 100
- Education Act 1996 (Section 19)
- Equality Act 2010
- Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, January 2013
- Out of School Out of Mind, 2011
- Ofsted Subsidiary Guidance, 2012
- Alternative Provision Statutory Guidance, January 2013
- SEND Code of Practice, January 2015
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, December 2015

This Policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. The responsibilities of the School

The moral and legal mandate for schools is to ensure that they are supporting children with medical needs to the best of their ability and have a policy and processes in place to ensure this happens. There was a major shift in the legal responsibilities of schools when Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 placed a legal duty on schools, academies and **alternative provisions**, to make arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions at their school.

This can be a significant challenge for all schools and for all professionals working with children who have medical needs. Effective multi-agency working helps to ensure that all pupils who have medical needs receive the support to which they are entitled.

Hailey Hall retains the responsibility to provide a suitable education for all its pupils and be able to make reasonable adjustments according to identified needs. A joint package of

support will be arranged for the CYP (**Child Young Person**) between the school and ISL. The pupil will remain on the school roll; the school retains the pupil funding and is statutorily required to have an up-to-date policy and a named person who will liaise with ESMA (Education Support for Medical Absences) for pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs. The named person with regard to this is the SENDCo, Miss Sara Hill.

Statutory Guidance for schools

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf)

**‘Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions; Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England. December 2015.**

### **3.1 Initial arrangements made by the School**

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

The Board of Trustees will ensure that the Senior Leadership Team make suitable arrangements and monitor these. Hailey Hall will work in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parent / carer, Board of Trustees, all school staff, employers and healthcare professionals, to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

If a pupil is unable to attend school due to health needs, the SENDCo will arrange a meeting with parents / carers, any medical professionals and if appropriate the local authority, to discuss the arrangement and agree a suitable plan. An Individual Healthcare Plan is important to ensure that the school knows how to handle a medical emergency with the child and that it is providing the right support for a child on an ongoing basis. This will be continually reviewed and the school will seek advice on this from medical professionals.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to medical or health needs, the school will arrange for work to be sent home via post or via Teacher Dashboard (Office 365). There will be regular welfare checks either via telephone or home visits, by one of the attendance team or the form tutor. In some cases virtual meetings via Teams or Zoom may be offered to support the pupil. When, and if, a pupil is ready to return to school, the School will create an individualised plan alongside the local authority, medical professionals and parents to ensure an achievable transition back into the school environment.

### 3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school are unable to make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will effectively need to be 'signed off' school by a medical professional. There are actually no official 'sick notes' or 'fit notes' for children from medical professionals; however a referral accepted by ESMA with supporting medical advice from the health professional providing support to the young person is effectively this.

If it is deemed that the arrangements are not suitable and the pupil cannot access education, a referral will be made to the local authority following the process below:

INFORMATION REQUIRED	PROCESS	SUPPORT PROVISION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils of statutory school age resident in Hertfordshire with a medical condition impacting on their ability to access the school programme.</li> <li>• To inform the planning process to ensure support meets CYP's needs- a Care/Treatment Plan is required from the medical practitioner working with the CYP e.g. CAMHS; Consultant; Pediatrician</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals via HSR or EHM to relevant ISL Area.</li> <li>• The evidence should specify the impact the medical condition has on the pupil's ability to access education in school.</li> <li>• The first 3 weeks of absence remains school's responsibility from in-house support procedures.</li> <li>• For prolonged support, a current treatment plan and a named medical contact to identify support amendments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice and training so schools are enabled to develop and embed skills/strategies to manage pupils with health needs.</li> <li>• Liaison with the school and health professionals to advise on a support plan for the CYP.</li> <li>• Provides advice regarding School Policy documentation for pupils with medical needs.</li> <li>• Facilitates teaching support according to health advice.</li> </ul>

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.

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Miss Sara Hill (SENDCo). At every review, it will be approved by the full board of trustees.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Home Learning Policy