



William Byrd

PRIMARY ACADEMY

Children with Health Needs who cannot Attend School Policy



Approved by: Trust Board

Date: January 2025

Next review due by: January 2026

Aims

At William Byrd Primary Academy, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting, receive a suitable education including those on roll but unable to attend school due to their health needs. Children and young people may miss school due to health reasons. This may be illness (physical or mental health), injury or a planned admission to hospital. The health problem may be time-limited, or a child may have a long-term condition.

Most absences will be for minor, short-term health problems and absences from school will be short and infrequent. In such a case, William Byrd Primary Academy would work with the child's family to arrange any educational support relating to such absences.

However, some children may miss school for longer periods due to health reasons which prevent them from attending school. This policy sets out the alternative education arrangements of those children and the role of the London Borough of Hillingdon in providing such provision. The Local Authority in which the child resides is responsible for arranging and meeting the costs of their alternative provision.

Based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

School arrangements

Whilst the local authority is responsible for ensuring that alternative education arrangements are made, pupils (except in very limited circumstances that must be agreed by the local authority and the school) remain on their registered school roll throughout their absence. The prime responsibility for their education remains with their school.

William Byrd Primary Academy would be responsible for:

- Referring pupils to the Local Authority Participation Team via the local authority's named office and provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Working with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to identify the education provision needed, the review of provision, monitoring of pupil progress and arrangements for reintegration into school to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Sharing curriculum information with the alternative provision provider to ensure parity in lesson coverage, continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum – the child's class teacher

would be expected to liaise with the provider to this effect.

- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Ensuring that the pupil still feels part of the school community and maintains contact, (e.g. providing information about school news and facilitating contact with other pupils, such as: messages and the sharing of class good wishes).
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Supporting their education, (e.g. by providing access to our web-based learning sites, learning materials, assessment information) whilst the pupil is off school.
- Providing a named contact at the school, who will have responsibility for co-ordinating links between the school, pupil, parents and the Local Authority Participation Team.
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Supporting and organising a successful reintegration into school. Arrangements for reintegration (or other future education arrangements) will need to take into account any ongoing health problems or disabilities that they may have.
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - a) 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, including through digital resources
 - b) Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - c) Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - d) Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Local Authority arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, London Borough of Hillingdon will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

The local authority will:

- 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 (validated and evidenced, as necessary, by a medical doctor and meeting the Local Authority's requirements), would otherwise not receive suitable education. Full time education will not always mean providing the same number of hours of face-to-face provision. For example, a provision equivalent to full-time education could be achieved with fewer hours if a pupil is receiving one-to-one tuition as the provision is more concentrated. Where a child is not well enough for full-time education, arrangements can be made for fewer hours.
- Provide such education as soon as it is known that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Liaise effectively with the school as there may be circumstances in which suitable alternative education is already in place, e.g. if the child is receiving education at a hospital school. In such circumstances, the school would only expect the local authority to intervene if the school or LA has reason to think that the education provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, is broad and balanced and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully into school as soon as possible. It should enable pupils to make good progress, especially in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. It should also maintain continuity of education provision with our own school curriculum.
- Provide a named Senior Officer with responsibility for educational provision for children with health needs. The named officer for Hillingdon is Kathryn Angelini, Assistant Director for Education and Vulnerable Children.
- Support effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.

Monitoring arrangements

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

Under the Children and Families Bill 2013, a new duty on governing bodies to support pupils at school with medical needs came into force in September 2014. This duty applies to schools, academies and pupil referral units.

See also: Hillingdon's 'The education of children and young people unable to attend school because of additional health needs', updated October 2021.

[The education of children and young people unable to attend school because of additional health needs - Hillingdon Council](#)

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions