

Salendine Nook High School (Academy)

Education of Children with Medical Conditions Who are Unable to Attend School (Statutory)

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1. Introduction

Salendine Nook High School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. SNHS will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- SNHS recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

2. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.

Kirklees Council has the overall responsibility for the education of children with health and medical needs who cannot attend school. Ethos College therefore provides education for children who are unable to attend school because of physical health or mental health needs (KS1-4).

This service is accessed by a referral from SNHS and must be supported by medical advice from a consultant. Support is usually on a short term basis, with the child remaining dual registered with SNHS. The aim of this provision is, where possible, to support the pupil towards reintegration back into mainstream education when they are well enough. This is done at the earliest opportunity, working closely with school, the pupil, parents/carers and other professionals.

Referrals can be made under the following criteria:

- The pupil has an illness that will result in a 15+ day absence.
- The pupil has a potentially long-term illness or recurrent bouts of chronic illness.
- The pupil has complex mental health needs.

Schools must make appropriate referrals to Ethos College for pupils unable to attend school due to health reasons where it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. In these circumstances, parents/carers must take medical evidence into the school which confirms why the pupil is unable to attend school and states how long this is likely to be the case. Statutory guidance states that evidence must be such as that provided by a consultant, however, in order to avoid delays the Pupil Referral Service will accept evidence from a GP if the pupil is to be referred to a specialist clinician*. GP only referrals will initially be considered as an interim referral in order for provision/support to continue, usual timescale 6 weeks. For further information on the **referrals process**, please contact Ethos College on **01924 469170** or via email: **ethosoffice@eat.uk.com**.

*Evidence from a consultant will still be required in this instance

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

SNHS will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special educational needs.

Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

SNHS will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at the school and the staff providing the education otherwise.

3. Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope

with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEN devolved budget or via review and referral to the SEN panel.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both SNHS and the education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Head of Year, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Head of Year will report to the Principal & Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.