



Ox Close Federation

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Approved	October 2023
Review Date	October 2024

Introduction

Ox Close Federation is committed to promoting inclusion, equality of opportunity and continuity of education for children and young people with health needs.

A number of pupils may experience difficulties in maintaining continuity of education because of health issues at some time during their school career. These issues may be short or long-term, to which our school needs to respond in order to ensure that all pupils access their statutory entitlement to education.

This policy applies to pupils who are temporarily unable to attend school because of medical illness, injury, pregnancy, anxiety or an identified mental health need diagnosed by a medical professional.

The purpose of this policy is to reflect and to confirm Durham County Council's statutory duties in accordance with:

- Section 19 of the 1996 Education Act which states that Local Authorities have a duty to 'make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school 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'
- DfE Statutory Guidance January 2013 (Revised May 2013) – '**Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.**'
- Equality Act 2010

Strategic planning for the delivery of provision for children and young people with health needs is carried out by the Education Health Needs (EHN) Team which is part of Durham County Council's The Woodlands School.

Shared Roles and Responsibilities

The shared responsibility is to ensure access to education for pupils with health needs. This is the responsibility of both the Local Authority and school.

The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for ensuring:

- there is a named LA officer with responsibility for the co-ordination of educational provision for pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs
- education is provided for pupils who cannot attend school because of health needs where the pupil is expected to be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative
- procedures are in place for early identification of a pupil's needs and for making provision as quickly as possible i.e. from the sixth working day of absence
- the education pupils receive is of good quality, equivalent to the education they would receive in school
- parents are consulted before teaching begins
- pupils receive teaching each week as their health allows
- pupils with recurrent illness should access provision, as far as possible, from day one of absence
- there is close liaison between the pupil, their family, school, and other agencies
- provision is regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to be appropriate.

The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the pupil's health condition allows) for pupils of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Support and Alternative Arrangements provided by the Local Authority:

- information, advice and support to pupils, parents/carers, schools and other agencies about pupils with health needs (physical, emotional and mental)
- teaching, where appropriate, in Local Authority venues, at home or in hospital
- support towards school re-integration
- information about the provision the Education Health Needs Team can offer

- input into multi-agency meetings
- training to schools and other agencies.

The LA commissions the Education Health Needs team to provide:

- advice/information to pupils, parents/carers, schools and other agencies
- direct teaching, where appropriate, at home, in hospital or in council buildings within County Durham
- support towards reintegration into school after a pupil experiences a hospital stay

The named Local Authority Officer is:

Paul Shadforth
 Strategic Manager SEND and Inclusion Strategy Assessment and Provision
 Children and Young People's Services
 Durham County Council

The Federation has a responsibility to:

- have a clear policy and a named person responsible for pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs
 Ox Close Federation's named person is Mr D Harrison (Executive Headteacher).
- nominate a governor responsible for reviewing the procedures that apply to educating pupils with health needs
 Ox Close Federation's named governor for Pupil Health and Wellbeing is Ms S Aungiers.
- seek confirmation of ill health and make reasonable adjustments to maintain continuity of access to education
- ensure that the pupil remains on the school roll, although some may be dual registered with The Woodlands School
- establish guidelines for school staff on maintaining meaningful contact with pupils and parents when a pupil is absent through health needs (this may include cards from classmates, school newsletters, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons)
- notify the Education Health Needs Team if a pupil is, or is likely to be, absent from school because of health needs for more than 15 school days
- work in partnership with the Education Health Needs Team and provide information about a pupil's strengths, needs, capabilities, target grades and progress
- provide robust information and relevant resources about the pupil's curriculum and programmes of study to ensure continuity of progress
- work in partnership with the Education Health Needs Team to monitor provision, attend reviews and support reintegration into school
- ensure pupils have access to public examinations
- ensure that the needs of pupils with a SEN Plan (Special Educational Needs Plan) or EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) are met
- ensure that the views of pupils and parent/carers are considered
- maintain a regular review system
- make reasonable adjustments to maintain good attendance and progress once the pupil has resumed attendance at school

Referral

Referral to the Education Health Needs Team may be from the Local Authority, Health or other agencies as well as schools. The pupil's health need must be confirmed by a medical professional. Referrals can be made as soon as it is anticipated that a pupil is likely to be absent from school for more than 15 school days. The Team will seek further medical information and advice as and when required.

Referrals should be made to Louise Campbell (Team Leader Education Health Needs) on l.campbell300@woodlandsdurham.net . Schools will then be sent a referral form to complete and submit.

Working in Partnership with the Pupil, Parents/Carers and Other Agencies

The Education Health Needs Team works in collaboration with each pupil's family and school. CAMHS, school nurses, Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) caseworkers, Health professionals and other relevant agencies are consulted as necessary.

Parents hold key information and have a critical role to play in their child's education. They have unique knowledge and experience which contributes to the shared view of a child's needs and the best way of supporting them. All parents/carers are consulted by one of the Team's advisory staff before teaching begins and are offered clear information about their child's provision. Parents are involved in their child's educational programme and the review process that monitors progress.

Children are entitled to receive and give supporting information, to express an opinion, and to have that opinion taken into account. Children are encouraged to participate in review meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed and revised annually in line with government and local authority advice and provision. The Executive Headteacher will report annually to the Governing Body. The report will contribute to the self-evaluation of our provision for pupils with health needs.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.