Tudhoe Learning Trust

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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

Health needs may include physical illness, physical injury, mental health difficulties, anxiety-based school avoidance where supported by medical evidence, recovery from surgery, or other conditions which prevent attendance at school.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is 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
- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority which can be found by following the following link; https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2983/Support-for-children-with-health-needs

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

All Trust schools will work closely with the local authority to ensure that children follow the right programmes of study. Individual education plans are drawn up and we liaise with medical professionals. As soon as possible we support integration back to school to prevent any further disruption to pupil's education.

The desired outcomes for the children who we support are to raise aspiration and achievement, for pupils to actively engage in education and for the package of support to result in improved emotional well-being and progress in school work.

The school will attempt to make reasonable adjustments in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and will not discriminate against pupils because of disability or health conditions.

The Headteacher of our Trust School is responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are made and that once arrangements are made, these are monitored regularly.

The type of arrangements that could be made may include but are not restricted to sending work home to complete or remote access to teaching and learning.

The Headteacher will consult with parents and pupils regarding any arrangements and discuss how the pupil will be reintegrated back into school.

Where a pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the school will work with the local authority to ensure the provision specified within the plan continues to be delivered as far as reasonably practicable.

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements for the provision of education to the pupil, this will be discussed with parents and pupils and the local authority will be notified. This may be necessary in circumstances where the child's inability to attend is expected to be long-term or the arrangements that the school are able to provide are deemed unsuitable for appropriate teaching and learning to take place. The local authority Health Needs Team will then become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- 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
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- 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
- 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)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
    - Enable the child 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
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

The Headteacher and Local Governing Committee will monitor the effectiveness of arrangements made for pupils unable to attend school due to health needs.

All arrangements made under this policy will be implemented in line with the Trust's safeguarding and child protection policies.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

5. Further Information

Further information, advice and support can be obtained from Tudhoe Learning Trust at office@tudhoelearningtrust.co.uk Tel: 01388 811765.