



Our vision is to provide an

Inspiring Educational Experience

for all students which is beyond their expectations and therefore forms
the foundation of a happy and fulfilled life.

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Aim

This policy and practice document aims to ensure that all WMAT students who are not able to attend school due to medical needs, are able to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows so that they can continue their education.

It should be read alongside the statutory guidance produced by the DfE. 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities - January 2013'.

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs will include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties/school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illness
- Chronic illnesses

General Principles

- The WMAT schools will continue to support and provide a suitable education for children with health needs whenever possible
- The WMAT schools will work in partnership with the Inclusion Officer (formerly EWO), parents, social worker and other agencies as appropriate to ensure the child's educational needs are met
- The Headteacher/Principal will agree a timetable to support their reintegration back into their school, if appropriate
- Arrangements will be formalised and reviewed termly using a FLEXI Schooling Contract

- The primary aim of this policy and practice is to minimise as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling that can be experienced by children with medical needs who are unable to attend school by continuing education as normally as their needs allow.
- A flexi contract with a clear timetable will be drafted in consultation with the family, social worker and Inclusion Officer
- Where a student is educated at home, the decision over the amount and nature of provision will be based on medical advice, the judgement of the teacher/Headteacher/Principal and the expressed views of the parents/carers
- Children admitted to hospital will receive education in hospital as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital school/tuition team for the hospital concerned

WMAT Expectations

DfE Statutory Guidance (January 2013) indicates that schools should:

- Ensure that there is a named person who is responsible for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs. The named person for each WMAT school is available upon request.
- Establish a written policy statement and clear procedures which may stand alone or be incorporated into the school's SEN policy. The DfES Guidance outlines the information that should be included in the policy at paragraph 2.7.
- In the case of a student who is expected to be absent for 15 working days or less, where this is not part of a pattern of absence related to a chronic or recurring illness, the process is to make arrangements in liaison with the student's parents to provide the student with homework as soon as they become able to cope with it.
- Ensure that students who are not attending school because of medical needs where the absence is expected to last for more than 15 days, are referred promptly to the Inclusion Service so that alternative education can be provided in a timely way and within the 15 working days.
- Provide appropriate work and materials promptly and regularly
- Be active in the monitoring of progress and in the smooth reintegration into school, liaising with other agencies as necessary
- Ensure that students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs are kept informed about school social and other events

Flexi-Contracts

The aim of the Flexi Schooling Contract is to ensure a formally understood process to support a child back into school. These will be reviewed termly.

SEN and Annual Reviews

Children with Special Education Needs (SEN) should have individual Education Plans (IEP's) and should continue to receive Annual Reviews organised by the school. The schools Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator should be regularly involved in liaison with the school and the SEN team.

Monitoring and Evaluation/Progress

The DSL and other appropriate staff will review attendance monthly and will highlight any child not attending for medical reasons to the named person responsible.

Review and Reintegration

Decisions about when and how a student should return to school following a long absence from school need to take account of a wide range of views, including those of the student, their parents/carers, social worker and staff.

It is essential that each student receiving tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs is reviewed by their Form Tutor at least half termly.

Plans need to be made to reintegrate the student back into school taking into account whether there are factors that need to be considered as part of the process.

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