



## Children unable to attend school because of medical needs

### Mission Grove Primary School

This Policy has been written for and adopted by the Governing Body of Mission Grove Primary School.

#### VISION STATEMENT

*For the children at Mission Grove to become well rounded individuals who have drive, passion and the confidence to do their best. Who leave with the skills to succeed and flourish in life. Staff have high expectations of themselves and others and are reflective practitioners. Mission Grove provides security, opportunities and enjoyment for all.*

Approved by Governing Body

Date :

Children unable to attend school because of medical needs

## 1. Aims

This policy and practice document aims to ensure that all pupils on roll aged 5 to 11 who are unable to attend school, because of medical needs and would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, so that they are able to maintain the momentum of their education and to keep up with their studies. It should be read alongside the statutory guidance provided 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 and young people 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

## 2. General Principles

Schools will continue to support and provide a suitable education for children with health needs whenever possible.

Schools will work in partnership with the appropriate local authority to ensure the child's academic needs are met.

The primary aim of this policy and practice is to minimise, as far as possible, for those who are unable to attend school, the disruption to normal schooling that can be experienced by children and young people with medical needs by continuing education as normally as their needs allow.

A timetable will be drafted in consultation with the schools named link worker.

Where a pupil is educated at home, the minimum entitlement will again be for five hours individual tuition per week. This may be increased where it is necessary to enable the pupil to keep up with their studies. This is particularly important when a pupil is approaching public examinations. The decision

over the amount of nature of provision will be based on medical advice, the judgement of the teacher and home school and the expressed views of the child / young person and their parents / carers. Children and young people admitted to hospital will receive education in hospital as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital school / tuition team for the hospital concerned We will work with parents / carers, schools and community.

### 3. Expectations on the Local Authority

A pupil who is unable to attend school because of medical needs is not at home without access to education for more than fifteen working days.

Pupils who have a chronic condition or illness which is likely to result in prolonged or recurring periods of absence from school, whether at home or in hospital, should have access to education from day one of the absence so far as is possible

Pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs receive a suitable full time education. The education provided should be of a similar quality to that available in school, including a broad and balanced curriculum.

The costs of hospital tuition for children and young people admitted to hospital are funded.

### 4. Expectations on Schools

DfE statutory guidance, January 2013 indicates that schools should :

Ensure that there is a named person who is responsible for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs.

Establish a written policy statement and clear procedures which may stand alone or be incorporated into the school's SEND Policy.

In the case of a pupil who is expected to be absent for 15 working days or less, and where this is not part of a pattern of absence related to a chronic or recurring illness, make arrangements in liaison with the pupil's parents to provide the pupil with homework as soon as they become able to cope with it.

Ensure that pupils 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 Social Inclusion Service so that alternative education can be provided in a timely way and within the 15 working days.

Work closely with the staff in the hospital / school tuition service and in particular :

Ensure that information about the pupil's curriculum, their achievements and any special educational needs that they may have is provided promptly

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 pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs are kept informed about school social events, and are able to participate in homework clubs, study support and other activities as appropriate

Encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, for example through visits and videos

Schools should promote co-operation between them when children cannot attend school because of ill health

### 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The progress of pupils receiving tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs will be monitored by the school and / or the staff of the hospital school / tuition service. These monitoring reports will be scrutinised by the safeguarding and inclusion team regularly.

### 6. Practice

For absences that are expected to last for 15 working days or less and are not part of a recurring illness :

Liaison between the school and pupil's parents to arrange homework as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part time education at school.

For absences that are expected to last for more than 15 working days :

For a pupil where the medical need involves a physical or medical condition, the school will seek the advice of the Community Paediatrician or relevant Consultant.

The Paediatrician or Consultant will be asked to :

Confirm the pupil's medical condition.

Indicate whether the pupil's absence is likely to last for more than 15 working days

Comment on the pupil's ability to cope with education provision, i.e. whether the pupil is medically unfit to attend school.

Comment on the kind of arrangements that would be needed to ensure the pupil's continued access to education.

Comment on the length of time that the pupil is likely to be absent and therefore in need of support

Comment on whether the illness is chronic and therefore whether future absences are likely, and tuition will be needed without the need to re-refer.

Indicate the review arrangements to ensure that the pupil returns to school as soon as they are medically able to do so and any reintegration arrangements that should be considered, eg a phased return.

Indicate the treatment or support that the pupil is to receive through the Health Service to support their return to health and mainstream schooling.

For a pupil where the medical needs involve a psychological or mental health difficulty or emotional difficulties / school refusal, the school will refer to Camhs for a view of the pupils needs. A referral to an Educational Psychologist may be appropriate.

The school should undertake a risk management plan for pupils who are at significant risk of self harm.

The services consulted will be asked to :

Provide confirmation from a relevant health consultant, eg community paediatrician, hospital consultant or consultant psychiatrist of the pupil's psychological or mental health difficulty

Indicate whether the pupil's absence is likely to last for more than 15 working days

Comment on the pupil's ability to cope with educational provision

Comment on the kind of arrangements that would be needed to ensure the pupil's continued access to education

Comment on the length of time that the pupil is likely to be absent and therefore in need of support

Indicate the review arrangements to ensure that the pupil returns to school as they were able to do so and any reintegration arrangements that should be considered

Indicate the treatment or support that the pupil is to receive to support their return to health and mainstream schooling

For absences that are linked to a chronic / recurrent illness or condition

As indicated above, the Community Paediatrician / Consultant will be asked to comment on the nature of the pupil's medical condition and indicate whether the condition is chronic and therefore whether there is likely to be a recurring need for tuition, in such cases it should not be necessary to wait for

further confirmation of the condition and that tuition is required each time the pupil is unwell and unable to attend school

#### Public Examinations

Efficient and effective liaison is important when children with health needs are approaching public examinations. The hospital school should be able to arrange a suitable focus on the child's education at this stage in order to minimise the impact of the time lost while a child is unable to attend school. Awarding bodies will make special arrangements for children with permanent or long term illnesses or indispositions when taking public examinations and the school should submit applications for special arrangements as early as possible.

#### SEND

Children with EHIP's should have individual education plans (IEP's) and should continue to receive annual reviews organised by the school. The schools SENCO should be regularly involved in liaison with the relevant agencies.

#### Review and Reintegration

Decisions about when and how a pupil should return to school following illness need to take account of a wide range of views, including those of the pupil, their parents / carers and the pupil's school, the Community Paediatrician, and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

It is essential that each pupil receiving tuition because they are unable to attend school due to their medical needs is reviewed at least half termly. This is to determine :

Whether the pupil continues to need tuition (unless the advice received previously has indicated a need for longer term tuition, for example in the case of a pupil who is terminally ill)

Whether plans need to be made to reintegrate the pupil into mainstream school, and if so, whether there are factors the need to be taken into account

When the pupil is considered well enough to return to school, staff will develop an individual tailored reintegration plan in liaison with the pupil, parents / carers, the school and other agencies who are actively involved.

Where the pupil might benefit from a phased return, the school may plan to reduce the number of hours that the pupil is expected to attend.