

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

2024

All children, regardless of circumstance or setting, should expect to receive the same high standard of education.

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.

Children who are unable to attend school because of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues;
- Physical injuries;
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues;
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal;
- Progressive conditions;
- Terminal illnesses;
- Chronic illnesses.

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996, Equality Act 2010, Data Protection Act 2018, 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (DfE 2023) and 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'(DfE 2015).

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: a service that acts as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical need

Parents/carers are responsible for informing their child's school of any new diagnosis, or changes to their child's medical condition, as soon as possible. Once a child is offered a place at Cleves Primary School, the earlier the parent can inform the school the easier it is to prepare to meet the needs of the pupil in their learning environment.

Healthcare Providers Healthcare providers have statutory obligations to support Local Authorities in meeting the needs of children with health needs, which include:

- Helping parents/carers/teachers etc to understand the child's health needs/disability;
- Provide access to any specialist advice services required;
- Advise on any matters such as access, provision of equipment and training in medical procedure.

Cleves Primary School has a duty (regulation 12(1)(a) of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 to provide to Newham Local Authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly (including due to their health needs).

In the case of a Looked After Child, Newham Local Authority is responsible for safeguarding the child's welfare and education. Where a looked-after child (LAC) is likely to be placed in alternative provision, the DSL should contact the local authority's Virtual School Head (VSH) as soon as possible. The VSH, working with the DSL and others, should consider what support a child needs to overcome barriers to attainment and achievement, giving equal consideration to the pastoral needs of the child, to ensure an appropriate AP placement can be made. Where relevant, Cleves Primary School will also engage with a child's social worker, foster carers, or children's home workers.

The school will provide to the LA, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils who are not attending school regularly, including if this is due to any additional health needs.

Provision for pupils will support their **individual** needs to overcome barriers to attainment and achievement, giving equal consideration to their pastoral needs to allow them to prosper in the education system. Consideration will be given to the pupil's personal, social and emotional needs to allow them to feel fully included in the school community, maintain contacts with classmates and have access to the same opportunities

Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with the school using the following methods:

- School newsletters
- Social media platforms
- Parent Mail and Marvellous Me
- Invitations to school events
- Cards or letters from peers and staff

During a lengthy absence, a reintegration plan will be developed near to the likely date of return to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill pupil in the early stages of their absence.

The school will work with the LA when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school. If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil.