



Policy for children unable to attend school because of medical needs

Reviewed November 2022

Stanley Grove School works in partnership with pupils, parents /carers, medical services and other professionals to enable children with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education. This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.' (January 2013). This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when a child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

School's responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical conditions, the school will provide educational tasks and resources for use at home when a child is considered well enough to engage in education.

When an absence is known to be more than 15 school days either in one absence or over the course of a school year, then the school will:

- Let the local Authority know that the child is likely to be away from school for more than 15 school days.
- Give the Local Authority/hospital information about the child's needs, capabilities and the programme of work they should be following.
- Maintain contact with parents/carers and the child. This includes making sure that parents/carers are kept informed about school events and clubs.
- Encourage the child to keep in contact with other children within school e.g. through visits or videos.
- Help the child reintegrate into school when they return. This could be phased or part time to suit the needs of the child.

The Local Authority's role

The Local Authority is responsible for the education of a child who is going to be away from school for more than 15 school days because of medical needs. They will make sure that they get as normal an education as possible. This could include arranging:

- Home teaching
- A hospital school or teaching service
- A combination of home and hospital teaching.

The Local Authority must make sure that the child continues to receive a full time education- unless part time is better for their health needs. The Local Authority should also:

- Have a senior officer in charge of the arrangements and a written policy explaining how they will meet their responsibilities.
- Make sure the child isn't without access to education for more than 15 school days.
- Arrange education from the start of the child's absence if it is clear that they are going to be away from school for long and recurring periods.