

Crossacres Primary Academy

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

November 2024



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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

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](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority which can be found at Manchester Hospital Schools website.

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

School will support the child in accessing education during this period of time. This will either be via the school or the Local Authority (Hospital School).

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The attendance lead, will notify the class teacher and SMT members of children who cannot attend school for health reasons as soon as she has been made aware.

The class teacher will liaise with parents about how we can support with home learning during the child's absence if they are at home and able to do so. Any communication/plans will be logged onto CPOMS so that SMT are aware of the situation and can monitor.

The class teacher will support by sending home learning for the child to complete at home using Class Dojo or a paper format of work will be sent if the family have difficulties with online learning.

Home Visits will be completed on a regular basis if the absence is prolonged to ensure the child is monitored following safeguarding procedures if the child is at home.

When the child is ready to return to school the parents should notify school and an individual plan will be put into place to support the child's reintegration into school life. This may be part time initially depending upon the individual circumstances.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Manchester LEA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. This is done via the Manchester Hospital School.

(Information taken from Manchester Hospital school website – November 2023)

All children and young people who attend Manchester Hospital School are referred as a result of medical issues that prevent them from attending their own school. Please refer to our [MHS Admissions Policy](#) for more details. We provide education for children and young people aged 5-18 at the Christie, RMCH, Wythenshawe Hospital, North Manchester General Hospital, for young people aged at Galaxy House, for young people aged 11-18 at the Leo Kelly School, and through HIVE for young people who are too unwell to attend a school setting.

All our provisions follow the same principle which is to reduce the detrimental effect of illness, whether physical or mental, on the education of children and young people. All hospital inpatients are entitled to access their education during their stay. Manchester Hospital School is commissioned by Manchester City Council to support children and young people too unwell to attend their usual school. All referrals for support are discussed and pathways agreed at a fortnightly multi agency panel meeting.

At the point of admission to Manchester Hospital School pupils will:

- Be a resident of the United Kingdom
- Be a resident in a country other than the UK where permission has been sought to educate that pupil
- Be present in hospital for a period of 5 school days or more or be a frequently recurrent patient
- Be receiving proton beam therapy at the Christie
- Be a resident at Galaxy House

Leo Kelly School

Following a referral from school and a health practitioner, young people are admitted to the Leo Kelly School once a multi agency admission panel consisting of health and education professionals have decided that the placement is suitable. The Leo Kelly School is for Manchester residents who experience significant anxiety or associated mental health issues and/or are unable to attend school because of ongoing medical issues. Other LAs can commission places for individual pupils.

HIVE

We provide education for those children rising 5-18 unable to attend their normal place of education following being discharged from Hospital or are too unwell to leave their home. Pupils are referred directly for Teaching by parents, schools and hospital or community consultants. Alongside the pupils' home schools, we aim to provide as much education as the pupils are medically deemed fit

enough to access. This could be through virtually teaching, teaching in the Home or Community or through other technology routes such as AV1 robots.

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

This policy will be reviewed annually by Julie Harrison – Deputy Head. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- › Accessibility plan
- › Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- › Attendance policy