



Managing the Education of Children Unable to Attend School due to Illness

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Purpose

To ensure that children who are unable to attend school due to illness receive appropriate support to continue their education, maintaining their academic progress and wellbeing in line with UK primary school standards.

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils enrolled at Milton Mount who are absent due to short-term or long-term illness and unable to attend school physically.

Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- The Education Act 1996
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice
- Department for Education (DfE) guidance on education for children with medical needs

Responsibilities

- Headteacher: Overall responsibility for policy implementation and liaison with families and external agencies.
- Designated SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator): Coordinates educational provision for pupils with medical needs.
- Class Teachers: Provide learning materials and adapt teaching plans as necessary.
- Parents/Carers: Communicate promptly about the child's health and learning needs.
- Local Authority (LA): Provides support services and alternative education provision where applicable.

Identification and Notification

- Parents/carers should notify the school as soon as possible about a child's illness expected to cause prolonged absence (usually more than 15 consecutive school days).
- Medical evidence may be requested to confirm the nature and duration of illness.
- The school will assess the pupil's needs and coordinate an individual education plan.

Educational Provision

- For short-term illness (from 6 to 15 days), where appropriate the school will provide:
 - Learning packs, worksheets, and access to online resources.
 - Regular contact with the child and parents to monitor progress.
- For long-term illness (over 15 days), the school will:
 - Collaborate with the LA's home tuition service or hospital education teams.
 - Develop a personalised learning plan tailored to the child's medical condition and abilities.
 - Facilitate flexible learning arrangements, including online lessons or adjusted timetables where possible.

Support and Monitoring

- Regular review meetings involving parents, healthcare professionals, and school staff to monitor the child's health and educational progress.
- Adjustments to learning plans will be made based on medical advice and the child's readiness.
- Transition planning to support reintegration into school when the child is ready to return.

Inclusion and Wellbeing

- Ensure the child remains socially included through:
 - Regular communication with peers.
 - Participation in school activities where feasible (e.g., virtual assemblies).
- Provide emotional and pastoral support through school counsellors or designated staff.

Record-Keeping and Confidentiality

- Maintain accurate records of all communications, learning plans, and reviews.
- All information will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, ensuring confidentiality.

Training and Awareness

- Staff will receive training in medical conditions, safeguarding, and inclusive education practices.
- Awareness will be promoted about the needs of children with medical conditions across the school community.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to legislative changes, medical advances, or school needs.