

THORNBOROUGH INFANT SCHOOL



Thornborough
Infant School

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Signed:

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Signed:

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Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on Governing Boards of maintained schools to make arrangements for supporting students at their school with medical conditions. Schools are required to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

1. Aims

This policy is to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Students, 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 reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by Buckinghamshire Council: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-attendance-and-supporting-children-in-education/education-support-for-children-with-medical-needs/>

3. The Responsibilities of the School

We will provide learners with work that allows them to access the core skills and knowledge required in order to give them foundational concepts that will support a successful return to school following a period of absence from medical reasons.

This policy is applicable for students who have an identified long-term medical condition requiring additional school support eg. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. The school may seek relevant medical evidence as necessary. This may include appointments, reports, consultant's letters etc. This in order to enable the best provision and individualised support to be designed. We may need this evidence to work with Buckinghamshire Council on any further support plans.

We will liaise with parents and initially provide work for the Core subjects and two other subjects of their choice. Should a parent wish for more in the first instance or over time then this can be amended as part of the monitoring process. Work will be set via a Google classroom that is administered by the Assistant Head (Student Character) and the Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning). We will provide paper based resources if necessary and by arrangement with parents if there are significant ICT barriers preventing engagement with google classroom and other online learning platforms.

These arrangements will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher (Student Character).

The process is:

Home alerts the school attendance officer to the long term medical issue that is preventing school attendance (This is different from a student who is self isolating due to Covid-19 reasons. This falls under the home remote learning strategy.)

A discussion, using the Children With Health Needs proforma (see Annex 1) is undertaken with parents. This establishes the concerns, the length of absence, the school support needed and the subjects to be provided.

The Assistant Head pastoral and the Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning will create an individual classroom for the students and upload work linked to the core content for the period of absence or to vital skills and knowledge for that academic year.

The student as well as the parents will be provided with some feedback on the quality of this work from The Assistant Head pastoral and/or the Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning.

For longer term absence the school will contact Buckinghamshire Council and seek additional support services as required via the Educational Entitlement Team.

The monitoring of this provision is undertaken via a half termly review meeting of students who are dual registered or who are in receipt of alternative education plans covered under this policy. This is between the SENDCo, Attendance Officer, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Headteacher (Student Character)/Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning).

We will take a gradual approach to reintegration and will work with parents to formulate a personalised plan. This could involve time in the Learning Support Area for catch up, a reduced timetable which is carefully monitored, reducing the volume of content to focus on mastery of critical core and foundational concepts. Any return plans will be carefully monitored and reviewed for success with parents and adjusted as necessary.

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.

Where necessary, the school will seek support from the Educational Entitlement Team at Buckinghamshire Council, CAMHS and other external agencies and organisations to coordinate the necessary educational provision.

Schools should usually provide support to children who are absent from school because of health needs for a shorter period of time, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza.

3.2 If Buckinghamshire Council makes Arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Buckinghamshire Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In cases where Buckinghamshire Council makes arrangements, the school will:

Work constructively with Buckinghamshire Council, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student.

Share information with Buckinghamshire Council and relevant health services as required.

Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be re-integrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, work with Buckinghamshire Council to:

Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.

Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school).

Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.

Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting Students with medical conditions

Attendance Policy

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.