





Houghton Primary School
Working hard to achieve our best

Policy for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

Date reviewed and adopted:	01 February 2022
Reviewed and adopted by:	Full Governing Body
Signed: Chair of governors	
Signed: Headteacher	
Date of next review:	Spring 2023

Houghton Primary School

Policy for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

The statutory duty for the education of children who cannot attend school because of health needs lies with the Local Authority.

The duties of the Local Authority are laid out in the DfE statutory guidance document: Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (January 2013).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

School Policy Statement

The school will comply with all sections in the statutory guidance for Local Authorities with regards to children who cannot attend school because of health needs which relate to schools, as follows:

1. Ensuring a good education

We will work with the Local Authority (LA) to support the education of children with health needs and share information as required and within the remits of GDPR.

We will liaise with the LA and support in any way we can in making sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible.

The named person with this responsibility is the school SENCo.

2. Identification and intervention

We will support the LA in its duty by informing them of any child who is absent from school due to medical needs for 15 days or more (either in one absence or over the course of a school year) so that the LA can take responsibility for their education if a suitable alternative has not been arranged.

If the absence of more than 15 days is a known, planned absence, we will comply with the statutory duty of LA's to put in provision by the 1st day of absence (and not later than the 6th day) by ensuring we keep them fully informed.

We will help the LA in its duty to complement the curriculum the child is missing in school by sharing all relevant curriculum planning with them.

We will work with the LA and the medical professionals to support a part-time return to school as necessary for any child who has been absent.

3. Working together – with parents, children, health services and schools

We are aware of and will comply with the regulation which states that a school can only remove a child who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs where;

- a) the pupil has been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and;
- b) neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.

The child will, therefore, be kept on the school register unless there is parental consent and certification from the LA Medical Officer to remove them. They will continue to be kept on roll even if they are not attending school and are being educated by the LA.

4. Reintegration

We will help the LA to comply with its duty by sharing all information which will support the child while they are absent from school, e.g. curriculum, newsletters, letters to parents, etc. We will also invite the child to school events and set up links using technology so that they can keep in touch with their peers.

We will work together with the LA to help them to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child. We will make reasonable adjustments and provide extra support if necessary for the child to help fill any gaps arising from their absence. We will liaise with the medical profession and school nursing team as part of this process.

We recognise that the health needs of a child will come first and any reintegration will be personalized accordingly and designed to minimize anxiety and not place undue stress on a child who has a limiting health condition or is very ill.

5. Public Examinations

Children in our school take statutory assessments in YR, Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6. We will submit applications as necessary/appropriate for special arrangements for children who have been absent for a period of time and under the responsibility of the LA.

6. Siblings

We will work with the LA in their statutory duty to work with families of children who have health needs and to place siblings in schools which are nearer to hospitals if necessary.

This policy was reviewed by the Full Governing Body on 01 February 2022.

It will be reviewed annually in accordance with DfE recommendations. Next review: Spring term 2023.