



**Federation of
Westminster Special Schools
& Bi-Borough Inclusion Service**

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Approved by:	Pupils & Learning Committee November 2023
Ratified by:	Full Governing Board December 2023
Next review due:	November 2024

Background

College Park and QEII schools aim to support the Local Authority (LA) and ensure that all children and young people who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children and young people may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, children and young people should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate them back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a child and young person's education whilst they are not at school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children and young people with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following Federation policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Responsibilities of the Schools:

When a pupil at either College Park or QEII school is unable to attend school due to their health needs the AHT Pastoral will make contact with parents to establish if the CYP's health issues are temporary or a permanent change to their health needs.

Actions to be taken if there are temporary changes to health needs:

The AHT Pastoral or the most relevant SLT member will contact parents to establish:

1. How their current ill health is different from any pre-existing medical needs.
2. How long their current period of ill health may last (eg if known recovery time from medical intervention such as an operation)

If this is a temporary change to the CYP's health needs the school will use the existing Home Learning Policy and Plan to provide educational provision until they are ready to return to school.

Actions to be taken if this is a permanent change to their health:

1. Review the CYP's Health Care Plan in liaison with parents and health care professionals to establish how the school can support the return to school.
2. If the change to the CYP's health needs cannot be supported by existing in school changes and adaptations to the health care plan and school provision the school will discuss with parents and the LA the need to review the EHCP and consider the appropriateness of the placement and if the school can continue to meet the CYP's needs or not.
3. If the CYP remains at home during this review process the school will work with the parents and the LA to provide appropriate home learning opportunities in line with the schools Federation's existing Home Learning Policy and Plan.

Responsibility of the Local Authority:

Local Authorities are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded CYPs and for other children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision.

This means that where a CYP cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the Local Authority is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to this guidance.

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

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies (including CAMHS and medical professionals) and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the CYP
 - Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
 - Help make sure that the provision offered to the CYP is as effective as possible and 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 CYP to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the CYP 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 CYP returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made