

Policy for

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

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Governor Responsibility:	L&C Committee
Staff Responsibility:	M Moss
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Governor Signature	

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. Statement of Intent

Tetherdown aims to support the local authority (LA) and ensure that all children 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 may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not at school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

3. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

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

- 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'

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority and Haringey's local offer for alternative provision.

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1. If the school makes arrangements

Initially, Tetherdown will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will be done by providing learning opportunities through the platform Microsoft Teams or via the Oak National Academy website. The class teacher will talk through the arrangements with the child's parents to design a suitable learning plan. As soon as it becomes clear that a pupil will be away for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, Tetherdown have a responsibility to refer pupils to the local authority via the following contacts:

Alternative Provision Commissioner Deborah Tucker deborah.tucker@haringey.gov.uk
School Exclusion and Advisory Board Team Samantha Hunte
samantha.hunte@haringey.gov.uk
Telephone number 0208 489 0000

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If Tetherdown can't make suitable arrangements, Haringey will become responsible for arranging suitable education. Haringey's Alternative Provision offers specialist support to meet a range of needs including children with health needs who are unable to attend school. The length of time a pupil spends in alternative provision will depend on what best supports the pupil's needs and potential educational attainment. Haringey Council has a responsibility

to make arrangements for suitable education for children who are unable to attend school for a number of reasons including illness.

Haringey Council also has a responsibility to ensure sufficient places to meet need and that young people are appropriately placed and supported to make progress. The Haringey Learning Partnership provides tuition in the community (home schooling). Tuition in the community is for students whose physical/mental health or other complex circumstances mean they are unable to attend any school location for a period of time. This is usually for a fixed period before a return to mainstream provision. Depending on the severity of the young person's condition, education will take place in a suitable location.

Any child or young person Tetherdown decides to place in alternative provision, either full or part time, is dual registered and remains the responsibility of the school. The decision to refer to alternative provision will be made in full consultation with children and parents. In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, Tetherdown will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, we will work with the local authority to:

- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made
- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from school)

The school Inclusion Manager (see school website) is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed biannually by the Inclusion Manager.

6. This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy