

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Somerville Primary School



**Reviewed annually by the Governing body of Somerville
Federation**

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- a. Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- b. Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Somerville Primary school aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without this provision, continue to access their learning as far as their medical condition allows, enabling 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 unable to attend 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.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority:

Wirral Local Authority policy on the education of children with medical need (2019)

3. Responsibilities

a. If the school makes arrangements

Initially, Somerville Primary School will make attempts to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Executive Head Teacher and SENDCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be convened with parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion; the plan will be signed by school and parents/carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital school or a Teaching Assistant may attend the home to deliver lessons, work will be prepared by class teachers.

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

b. If the Local Authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Wirral Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Referrals to the Home and Continuing Education Service

The Head of Service, Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service: schooloffice@wirralhometeach.co.uk

Schools should make appropriate referrals to the Home and Continuing Education Service for pupils of statutory school age who are unable to attend school due to health reasons where it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

- In these circumstances schools should complete the school referral form
- Schools are responsible for ensuring that a medical referral accompanies the school referral

Parents/carers are best placed to liaise between their child's Paediatrician, NHS consultant, CAMHS psychiatrist, senior CAMHS psychologist or therapist and the school. However, the medical referral can be made directly to the Home Education Service by the doctor/senior CAMHS psychologist or therapist.

The medical referral should confirm why the pupil is unable to attend school and state approximately how long home education is likely to be the needed.

Statutory guidance states that evidence should be such as that provided by a consultant, however in order to avoid delays the Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service will accept evidence from a GP if the young person is to be referred to a specialist clinician (h). GP only referrals will initially be considered as an interim referral in order to avoid delays, but must be further supported by specialist evidence in order for provision/support to continue, usual timescale 6 weeks.

The medical evidence should also confirm how much 1:1 tuition or group tuition the pupil is well enough to receive. Failure to provide the appropriate evidence could delay the referral process and the consideration of support being withdrawn.

(h) Evidence from a consultant will still be required in this instance.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school 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, work with the local authority to:

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 their school)

Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school

Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher/SENDCO. At every review it will be approved by the full governing body.

5. Links to other policies

DofE Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (2013)
Accessibility plan
Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions