



Date of Development: March 2020

Date Agreed by Governors:

Last review: January 2022

Review Date: January 2023

### **Education for Children who cannot attend school because of their health needs.**

Schools in the Agate Momentum Trust will work in collaboration with the local authority to provide a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

#### **Schools in the Trust:**

During the first 15 days of a child's absence from school the class teacher will liaise with the SENCo to provide activities and resources which support these which can be undertaken with a responsible adult at the child's home or a setting in which a child's medical needs are being provided for.

The school will liaise with local authority to communicate appropriate assessment information and details re: the child's curriculum entitlement so that the transition from an education provided by the school to that provided by the local authority is as smooth as possible.

A work programme will be drawn up to inform local authority provision beyond 15 days of absence from school.

The school will ensure that the child's exercise books and support materials are available for teaching taking place off site.

The school will maintain contact wherever possible ensuring safe and appropriate access to school events and clubs wherever this is possible as well as facilitating and maintaining contact with peers. This could take the form of letter writing, remote collaboration in activities using google classroom for instance and online video conferencing.

The school will liaise closely with other providers during a child's absence in order that health needs can be met and work with other providers to manage the transition back into a school setting once those needs can be met in a school setting.

#### **The duty of the local authority:**

The Local Authority has a duty set out in Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and in the statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (DfE, 2013).

<https://www.education.gov/g00219676/special-health-needs-education>

The Equality Act 2010 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>) is also an important part of the legal framework around children and young people with significant medical needs.

### **Local Authorities must:**

Arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This duty applies to all children and young people who would normally attend mainstream schools, including Academies, Free Schools, independent schools and special schools, or where a child is not on the roll of a school. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive one-to-one tuition the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.

Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, LA's should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.

The LA must not withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child. (See 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions', Statutory Guidance, (DfE; 2014)).

### **Provision in Newham**

Where children's health needs result in them being absent from school for more than 15 days schools must inform Newham's attendance management team and liaise with them providing information about children's specific needs and circumstances and drawing up a work programme for them.

Following a referral the attendance management team will ensure that children are provided with an education as soon as possible and will contact parents/carers to make arrangements for this to take place.

The education which they provide could include:

- Outreach 1:1 teaching in a child's home or the community
- Access to small supported teaching groups
- Access to teaching and learning throughout a hospital stay
- A mix of these based upon children's needs.

The attendance management team is also responsible for making sure that children:

- Have access to education if they have been absent from school for more than 15 days
- Have access to a good quality education similar to that in school so they can
- Keep up with children of the same age
- Easily return to school
- Don't miss out on taking any exams

The school will:

- Keep you and your child informed about school events and clubs
- Support your child to stay in touch with their friends and classmates
- Help your child readjust to life in school on their return

<https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/attendance-exclusion-1/6?documentId=44&categoryId=20004>

### **Ensuring children in Newham have a good education**

The LA seeks to provide the same opportunities for children with health needs as their peers, including a broad and balanced curriculum, which is of good quality (as defined in Alternative Provision Guidance 2013). The education will be flexible and appropriate to their health needs, and regularly reviewed to reflect their changing health status. All children who are supported will have an individual learning plan.

The attendance management team will maintain good links with all schools, academies and free schools in their area through effective communication and clear processes of referral. They will also ensure that schools are aware of their key role in supporting their pupils with additional health needs, so the child can be reintegrated back to school when appropriate. Schools will be encouraged to maintain their links with parents/carers who also have a vital role to play e.g. keeping in touch through school newsletters, e mails, invites to school events etc.

Schools must have a policy for pupils with additional health needs as part of their SEN policy, which sets out how they provide support. Some schools may choose not to make use of the attendance management team, but they must monitor the education provided to ensure the child has access to appropriate education.

### **Identification and intervention**

The LA provides education for pupils who are unable to attend school for more than 15 school days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative

Some children may have long term illnesses which may recur or conditions which may need further treatment. Education is provided, as far as possible from day one to minimise disruption to education. To ensure that tuition is resumed promptly in these circumstances, files may be kept open so that re-referral is not required.

Referrals are accepted in writing from an appropriate CAMHS or Medical Consultant. All pupils should be receiving on-going medical intervention. Close liaison is maintained with the referring consultant to ensure that the tuition offered remains appropriate;

### **PROVISION**

The LA provides a variety of educational options tailored to meet the individual needs of the pupil. The LA must not withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.

Arrangements are flexible and reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain appropriate. Teachers work in partnership with pupils, parents/ carers, schools, medical and educational professionals to ensure the best possible outcome for each pupil.

Examples of some arrangements that may be appropriate:

- Outreach 1:1 teaching in your home or the community

- Access to small supported teaching groups
- Access to teaching and learning throughout a hospital stay
- A mix of both based on your child's needs

### **Public examinations**

Arrangements are made for children to sit public examinations, at an appropriate level, if a consultant feels this is in the child's best interest. Appropriate access arrangements will be organised in agreement with the host school.

### **The education of children with life limiting and terminal illness**

The LA will continue to provide education for as long as the pupil's parents and the medical staff wish it. If the pupil and parents wish to withdraw from education their wishes will be respected if the decision is supported by medical advice.

### **Working together – with parents/carers, children, health services and schools**

Any educational provision for a child with additional health needs will be discussed with parents/carers first. Parents/carers have a key role to play in their child's education and can provide helpful information to ensure that the teaching approach is successful. In the case of a looked after child, local authority representatives and primary carers would fulfil this role. Children will also be involved in decisions, their engagement dependent on their age and maturity. This supports the Service and the school in providing the right educational provision with which the child is able to engage.

The Service will act on behalf of the local authority to remind schools that they cannot remove pupils from their roll because of an additional health need without parental consent and certification from the school medical officer, even if they are being supported by the attendance management team (Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations 2006)

Term dates are those set down by Newham Council Council.

### **Reintegration into School**

When reintegration into school is anticipated, the attendance management team will work with the school to ensure that pupils receive the necessary support they need to facilitate this process. A member of the Team will hold a meeting with the appropriate teacher from the school and the pupil's parent. In many cases a gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable. Members of the attendance management team may work alongside a pupil when they are returning to school so a good handover takes place and the pupil feels confident in their return.

### **Provision for siblings where a child has to remain in a hospital outside of Newham**

When treatment of a child's condition means that his or her family have to move nearer to a hospital, and there is a sibling of compulsory school age, the local authority into whose area the family has moved will ensure that the sibling is offered a place, where provision is available, for example, in a local mainstream school or other appropriate setting.

### **Teaching**

All contracted teachers are subject to performance management and receive annual appraisal and lesson observation.

All sessional staff receive informal lesson observations

All staff receive safeguarding training

During a home teaching session it is essential that a parent or another responsible adult nominated by the parent is on the premises and immediately available if required.

Teachers follow the guidelines set out in the Local Authority Lone Working Policy.

When arranging the timing of the home teaching sessions, the teachers should be prepared to take a flexible approach to fit in with medical appointments and other essential family arrangements. However, there is an expectation that the pupil is available for tuition throughout the normal working school day.