



**Penistone Grammar School**

Policy Statement:  
**Pupils with Additional Health  
Needs Attendance Policy**

Policy Version: July 2024

**Never Stop Flying**

This policy has been written in consultation with staff, students, parents and Governors. It has been reviewed in **July 2024** and has been approved for implementation by the full Governing Body as dated.

## **Statement of Intent**

Penistone Grammar School aims to ensure that all pupils who are unable to attend school due to medical needs continue to have access to as much education, including physical education, and as many school trips as their medical condition allows.

Due to the nature of their health needs, however, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision and unable to attend school as normal. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to help 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 attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all pupils with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with the school.

## 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. 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
  - · The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
  - · 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'
  - · DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'

This policy operates in conjunction with other relevant school policies.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1. Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:
- Physical health issues.
  - Physical injuries.
  - Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
  - Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
  - Progressive conditions.
  - Terminal illnesses.
  - Chronic illnesses.
- 2.2. Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:
- **Hospital school:** a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
  - **Home tuition:** many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment. In Barnsley this is called EOTAS (Educated Other Than At School).
  - **Medical PRUs:** these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.
- 2.3 - For the purpose of this policy, "school-based support" in relation to supporting pupils with additional health needs may include:
- Day-to-day support offered at school where the pupil is able to attend as normal.
  - Support given to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days, whether consecutive or cumulative.
  - Any educational or extra-curricular provision as requested by the LA as part of its arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school full-time, e.g. where the pupil attends school part-time as an arranged part of their full-time education provision.
  - As part of their reintegration into normal school attendance following a period of absence or part-time attendance due to health needs.
- "LA-arranged education", for the purpose of this policy, is defined as education provision arranged by the LA where the pupil cannot attend school full time due to medical reasons for a period of 15 school days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The governing body is responsible for:
- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
  - Ensuring a regular review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.

- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.

- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.
  - Approving and reviewing this policy on an annual basis.
- 3.2. The Principal is responsible for:
- Working with the governing body to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
  - Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
  - Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
  - Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
  - Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
  - Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
  - Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- 3.3. The named member of staff is **Graham Teasdale**. They, or their advocates, are responsible for:
- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
  - Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
  - Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
  - Liaising with the Principal, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
  - Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA.
- 3.4. Teachers and support staff are responsible for:
- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
  - Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
  - Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
  - Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
  - Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
  - Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.
- 3.5. Parents are expected to:
- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.
  - Work in partnership with the school, LA and any LA arranged provision to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.

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- Notify the school, or relevant educational provider, of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

#### 3.6 - LA duties

- For the purpose of this policy, the LA's duties when pupils are unable to attend school due to health needs are outlined below. These duties have been included so as to differentiate the responsibilities that lie with the school and those that will be carried out by the LA. The school is not responsible for ensuring that the LA meets its responsibilities – the school's responsibilities are outlined in the 'Roles and responsibilities' section of this policy.
- The LA will be responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The school will fulfil its duty to effectively collaborate and communicate with the LA as required.
- In line with statutory guidance, the LA should:
  - Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutively or cumulatively.
  - Liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
  - Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
  - Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
  - Have a named officer responsible for the education of pupils with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
  - Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
  - Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for each pupil and that it provides suitable education.
  - Have clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.
  - Maintain good links with the schools in its area and put systems in place to promote co-operation between them when children cannot attend due to ill health.
  - To comply with statutory guidance, the LA **should not**:
    - Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
    - Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
    - Have policies based upon the percentage of time a pupil is able to attend school rather than whether the pupil is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
    - Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

#### 4. Managing absences

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- 4.1. Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
- 4.2. Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- 4.3. The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a significant period of time by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.
- 4.4. Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, if appropriate the school will liaise with the parents/LA as appropriate to enable education provision to be provided as quickly as possible.
- 4.5. The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

## **5. Support for pupils**

- 5.1. Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil.
- 5.2. The LA expects the school to support pupils with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to pupils' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- 5.3. The school will make reasonable adjustments in line with each student's individual health care needs.
- 5.4. Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- 5.5. During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- 5.6. Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods (as appropriate):
  - School newsletters
  - Emails
  - Invitations to school events
  - Cards or letters from peers and staff
- 5.7. Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- 5.8. To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:
  - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member
  - Access to additional support in school



- Online access to the some of the curriculum from home
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms (if possible and appropriate).
- Places to rest at school
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

## 6. Reintegration

- 6.1. When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan.
- 6.2. As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- 6.3. If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil.
- 6.4. The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.
- 6.5. For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- 6.6. The school is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.
- 6.7. The reintegration plan will include (if appropriate):
  - The date for planned reintegration, once known.
  - Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
  - Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil.
  - Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.
  - Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.
  - A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.
  - Follow up procedures.
- 6.8. The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.
- 6.9. Following reintegration, the school will seek feedback from the pupil regarding the effectiveness of the process.

## 7. Information sharing

- 7.1. It is essential that all information about pupils with health needs is kept up-to-date.
- 7.2. To protect confidentiality, all information-sharing techniques will be agreed with the pupil and their parent in advance of being used.
- 7.3. All teachers, TAs, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures, via CPOMs or Teams.
- 7.4. When a pupil is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, the parents and school will ensure the appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth

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return to the school. The named member of staff will liaise with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

#### **8. Record keeping**

- 8.1. Proper record keeping protects both staff and pupils and provides evidence that agreed procedures have been followed.
- 8.2. All records will be maintained in line with the Records Management Policy.

#### **9. Training**

- 9.1. Staff will be trained in a timely manner to assist with a pupil's return to school.
- 9.2. Once a pupil's return date has been confirmed, staff will be provided with relevant training before the pupil's anticipated return.
- 9.3. Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required (as appropriate).
- 9.4. Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are confident in their ability to support pupils with additional health needs.
- 9.5. Parents of pupils with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff.

#### **10. Examinations and assessments**

- 10.1. The named member of staff will liaise with the alternative provision provider over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate.
- 10.2. Relevant assessment information will be provided to the alternative provision provider if required.
- 10.3. Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for pupils with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as early as possible.

#### **11. Monitoring and review**

- 11.1. This policy will be reviewed by the governing body on an annual basis.





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