

Weatherhead High School

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

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Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. The responsibilities of the school	2
4. Monitoring arrangements	4
5. Links to other policies	4

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. Legislation and guidance

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

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority: <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/procedures/6-8-children-risk-not-receiving-suitable-education/>

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements in conjunction with the Director of SEND, Year Leaders and pastoral teams. A meeting will be made with parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions and timeframes for review from the discussion. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the student. Arrangements could include classwork and homework being set on Google Classrooms and other online learning platforms, sending work home where necessary or attending a hospital school. Work will be set and marked by class teachers. When necessary, the school will liaise with relevant outside agencies (LA, CAMHS and the NHS) to ensure that students with additional needs receive effective education.

The student will be slowly reintegrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times, or the student may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met. A named member of staff will facilitate the reintegration into school.

The school will remain responsible for the safeguarding of pupils on roll and host and chair regular review meetings (approximately half termly).

Public Examinations

The school will make suitable arrangements to facilitate students taking public examinations. The school will submit applications for special arrangements to the awarding bodies.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

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

Wirral Hospital School

Wirral Hospitals' School has two strands:

- Joseph Paxton Campus, which is a community base providing full-time education for 80 children and young people who cannot attend their mainstream school for a variety of medical reasons, primarily mental health;
- Bedside teaching at Arrowe Park Hospital, Children's Ward, which provides continuing education whilst children and young people are in-patients.

Home Education Service

Run separately from Wirral Hospital School, the Local Authority's Home Education service provides an additional layer of support for children and young people who are unable to attend school for a variety of reasons. The Home Education Service is a local authority service, which is based in Pilgrim Street, Birkenhead.

It provides temporary, continuing education for children who cannot attend their mainstream school, LA funded special school or alternative provision because of their medical and/or mental health needs.

The majority of teaching takes place in pupils' homes but, where possible, pupils are encouraged to attend small-group teaching sessions at The Home Education Base in Pilgrim Street.

Admissions: There is a dual referral process to access support from the Home Education Service; a medical referral, which is supported by a school referral. Medical referrals must come from a pediatrician, NHS specialist consultant, CAMHS psychiatrist or senior CAMHS therapist/psychologist. The medical referral is the trigger for pupils to be eligible for home education, school referrals alone cannot usually be considered. However, if there are exceptional circumstances, schools are invited to discuss the case with the Head of Service.

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

A named member of staff will liaise with JPC and The Home Education Service to review the progress of students (at least every half term).

Public Examinations

In Year 11, the Hospital School will take full responsibility for safeguarding and entry for public examinations.

Weatherhead will liaise with JPC and the Home Education Service regarding entry of public examinations. Students will be entered for the examinations by JPC and the Home Education Service, who will also administer the examinations.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Medicine Policy
- SEND Policy