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## Children who cannot attend School for Health Reasons Policy

<b>Approved by Chair of Governors:</b>	Stephen Prudence	<b>Date of approval: March 2026</b>
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Sarah Kitching	
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### 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 and carers 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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement.

The Statutory Guidance from the Department of Education, (DfE) relating to students who cannot attend school due to medical needs will be followed in such circumstances.

The general guidance states that:

*“Local Authorities (LAs) are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other children, who because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such supervision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the LA is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to this guidance.*

*In circumstances where a child may be able to access some school time whilst also attending medical appointments, the Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo) will liaise with the LA, Medical Professionals and family, to agree a plan of support to agree arrangements for their time in school.*

**Hollywater School** will adopt a flexible approach where necessary to ensure treatment can be accessed, convalescence carried out and resettlement undertaken if this is in the best interest of the child.

### Current Guidance States

*“The law does not specify the point during the child’s illness when it becomes the LA’s responsibility to secure for the child suitable full-time education. Schools would usually provide support to children who are absent from school because of illness for a shorted period, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza. In some cases, where a child is hospitalized, the hospital may provide education for the child within the hospital and*

*the LA would not need to provide any additional education, provided it is satisfied that the child is receiving suitable education. More generally the LAs should be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise arranged!*

### **3. Responsibilities of the school**

#### **3.1 If Hollywater school makes arrangements.**

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children on roll at Hollywater School, with health needs, who cannot attend school.

- The SENCo will liaise with the responsible LA, Medical professionals and child's family, to agree a plan of action to support and agree arrangements for the child's time in school and when they are receiving treatment or convalescing at home.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead, (DSL), SENCo, Home School Link Worker (HSLW) and the Class Teacher will be responsible for delivery of and monitoring of, the provision of education for students who are not in school due to health needs.
- A Risk Assessment of the students' needs will be made and updated on a weekly basis to ensure that there is consistency of approach and appropriate Safeguarding review taking place.
- One of the staff above will make a call twice a week to check in with the student and their family.
- If there is not response to staff phone calls the DSL will be consulted and physical visits will be made to the home for proof of life by a DSL or DDSL (Deputy safeguarding Lead)
- Concise notes of these visits will be made and reviewed via CPOMS and weekly SLT meetings where Safeguarding is discussed and prioritised.
- Arrangements for provision of continuing education, may include: sending work home; providing remote learning; virtual or physical support in hospital if appropriate; or hospital school's provision. Parents /Carers will be consulted via either face-to-face or virtual means to discuss and make these arrangements.
- According to student need and in agreement with the LA, medical professionals, parents / carers and the student, a plan will be developed to reintegrate a pupil back into school after a period of absence due to health reasons. This may include a phased return to school to support the pupil to manage their convalescence and fatigue levels.

#### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If Hollywater School can't make suitable arrangements, the relevant LA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. This will depend on:

- A child who has been absent from school due to health reasons or being in hospital for 15 days and as a result is absent from school.
- The process for referring a child to the local authority will be made after consultation with parents/carers, pupil and in conversation with the schools SEN Advisors (Primary and Secondary and Further Education)

### **In cases where the Local Authority makes arrangements, Hollywater School will:**

- Work constructively with Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents / carers 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, **Hollywater School** will work with the relevant LA, Medical Professionals, Hollywater HSLW, CAMHS, School Nurses to:
- Ensure that there is an effective, recorded liaison between hospital teaching staff, Hollywater Teaching staff, the LA's alternative provision / home tuition service to enable continuity of provision and consistency of the curriculum. This will support Hollywater School to make information available about the curriculum and work the pupil may miss, helping them to keep up, rather than having to catch up.
  - 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, virtual participation in assemblies and class meetings.)
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to support the student's resettlement into school life.

### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher, Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) and the Governing Body. At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Body.

### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Remote Education Plan
- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy

### **DfE References:**

[Hospital education: a guide for health services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604222/Hospital_education_a_guide_for_health_services.pdf)

[Additional health needs guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604222/Additional_health_needs_guidance.pdf)