



## SIMONSIDe PRIMARY SCHOOL

### POLICY FOR MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

#### INTRODUCTION

Simonside Primary School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs continue to have access to as much learning as their medical condition allows.

School recognises that the child's absence may be a temporary or more permanent arrangement. Due to the nature of the child's medical/ health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. School understands that it has a continuing role in a child's education and will work with all partners including the Local Authority, healthcare professionals and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their learning and the school. If it is appropriate for the child to return to school, we will support reintegration as soon as the child is well enough.

#### Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection 2018
- DfE January 2013 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE 2015 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'.

#### Definitions

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 concerns including anxiety issues
- emotional difficulties or school refusal
- progressive conditions
- chronic illnesses
- terminal illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend school for health reasons and for a prolonged period may attend any of the following:

- The Newcastle Bridges School, where education is provided within a hospital setting to give continuity of learning while a child is receiving treatment
- home tuition

- a medical PRU provided by the LA for those children who are unable to attend their registered school due to their specific medical needs.

### **The responsibilities of the school and Local Authority**

When a child is absent from school for medical reasons but is well enough to engage in educational tasks, the school will provide educational tasks and resources to use at home. This is most usually for a period of less than 15 days.

It is the duty of the LA to arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's medical condition allows) when it becomes clear that the child will be absent for 15 days or more.

### **Specific responsibilities**

#### **The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- working with governors to provide relevant information and ensure compliance with statutory duties when supporting children with medical needs
- working collaboratively with carers and professionals to develop arrangements that best meet the child's needs
- ensuring these arrangements are fully understood and acted upon by all those involved in supporting the child
- liaising with the SENDCo as the person in school appointed to oversee the support for the child.

#### **The Governing Body is responsible for:**

- ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school for medical reasons are in place and effectively implemented
- ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs
- ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the children are in place and understood by all
- ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents
- ensuring staff with responsibility in supporting pupils with medical needs are appropriately trained
- approving the policy on an annual basis.

#### **The SENDCo is responsible for:**

- providing teachers who are supporting pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to the health condition and the possible effect of the condition/ medication on the child
- notifying the LA if the pupil is likely to be away from school for a significant period due to their health needs
- supporting pupils who are not able to attend school due to their health needs
- actively monitoring any reintegration to school
- liaising with the HT, staff, other education providers and carers to determine any programme of study
- providing a link between the child, the carers and the LA.

#### **Parents/ carers are expected to:**

- ensure that attendance is as regular as possible, subject to medical needs
- work in partnership with school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child

- keep school informed of any absences or relevant and up to date medical information which school needs to know
- attend meetings to plan support for the child.

#### **Teaching and Support Staff are expected to:**

- understand the confidentiality in respect of a child's health needs
- understand their role in supporting the child
- design lessons that support the child with medical needs
- ensure that they are familiar with any medical information which may impact on the child's learning, progress, health and well-being
- keep parents informed of the child's progress.

#### **Support for the child and family from school**

Once alerted that a child has a medical condition that will mean they are unable to attend school for a significant period, school will begin to gather information that will help it to make arrangements for the child to continue their learning.

The Headteacher and SENDCo will be responsible for making and monitoring any arrangements. Consultation will also take place with the child's class teacher and the school's Parent Support Adviser.

In the first instance a meeting will be arranged with parents/carers and school staff to discuss arrangements for working from home.

A plan will then be drawn up detailing agreed actions, agreed monitoring dates and signed by school and parents/carers. The plan will then be delivered to provide education to the child.

Arrangements could include:

- sending work home as hard copies and include necessary resources
- using school's Class Dojo
- the child having access to hospital based tutors during periods of hospital admission.

Further meetings will be held to review and update the agreed plan. Parents/carers will also be invited to consultation sessions with the child's class teacher.

If the child is admitted to hospital and well enough to work with the hospital school, school will provide curriculum information and information about the child's abilities and assessments,

If it is appropriate for the child to return to school, a programme of re-integration will be implemented. This could include:

- alternative provision at break and lunchtimes
- alternative start and end times
- a reduced timetable as required
- access to the lift to support mobility and safety
- access to resources e.g. iPads, laptops to support learning
- administration of medication in line with school's policy on managing medication.

## **Managing absences**

Parents/ cares are asked to contact school on the first day of absence if the child is unable to attend.

Absences due to illness and medical needs can be authorised.

The school will provide support for children absent through illness for a period of time less than 15 days by liaising with parents/ carers.

For periods of absence that are expected to last longer than 15 days, either in one absence or over the course of the school year, school's SENDCo will contact the LA to notify it of the child's absence and make arrangements for responsibility for the child's education.

A child will not be removed from the school roll without consultation with the LA and medical professionals working to support or treat the child.

## **Reintegration (cross reference to the policy on supporting children with medical needs)**

The school will endeavour to provide a welcoming environment where the child will be supported by staff and peers.

When a child is considered well enough to return to school, school will develop a reintegration plan in collaboration with other relevant professionals and carers. The SENDCo and Pupil Support Adviser may also be involved in drawing up and monitoring the plan.

The reintegration plan will cover:

- the starting date of re-integration
- planned meetings to review progress
- details of any named member(s) of staff involved in the reintegration
- the learning programme with identified goals and targets for progress.

The school will ensure that those who have been involved in maintaining contact with the child and the family will play a significant part in helping the child settle back into school.

The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the child.

The school may use a part-time timetable until the child is medically fit to attend full time.

In making arrangements for children with mobility difficulties to return to school, account will be taken of health and safety advice. The impact on staff will be considered eg. handling and lifting and, once again, advice taken.

The school is aware that gradual reintegration over a long period of time may be appropriate for some children and will work in partnership with other professionals and carers in the timing and pace of return.

**Links to other policies**

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions/needs
- Attendance
- Child Protection and safeguarding
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

This policy is subject to annual review and approval by the full Governing Body.

Implemented: January 2023

Review due: January 2024