

Hummersknott Academy



77 – Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Review Date: June 2022

Adopted/V1							
July 2021							

Hummersknott Academy Trust incorporates Hummersknott Academy and Skerne Park Academy and unless otherwise stated this policy applies to all Academies equally. This policy relates to Hummersknott Academy only.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy is to set out guidance to ensure that:

- suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff and students of Hummersknott Academy.

The responsibilities of the school

If the school makes arrangements for education

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

- The student's College Manager (in consultation with the Pastoral team and the SEND department) will communicate with the family and coordinate with subject teachers to provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.
- Decisions will always be made in conjunction with parental wishes and with the guidance of outside agencies where relevant. Meetings will be held on a regular basis to coordinate and review provision.
- Arrangements for the student's education could include: an adapted timetable; work being sent home, an adapted curriculum, a member of staff visiting their home, or provision within the Academy's Achievement Centre.
- Online work will be provided via TEAMS as an immediate response; if internet access is not possible, work packs will be collected and handed to the family.
- The student's College Manager will liaise with the family regarding a student completing work if they are hospitalised; they will also establish if the hospital is providing access to educational provision and liaise with hospital staff when appropriate. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the student with the service provider, taking account of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.
- Hummersknott Academy will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the student by providing the following: medium term planning; programmes of study or schemes of work; appropriate resources; information relating to the student's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special educational needs.
- Where practical, the Academy will host review meetings as the student remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility.
- Where students have recurrent admissions, or have a planned admission to hospital, the Academy will aim to provide a pack of work for the student to take into hospital with them.
- The Pastoral team (including the College Manager and/or the Alternative Education and Welfare Manager) will maintain weekly contact with the family.
- The College Manager and/or the Assistant Principal with responsibility for the student's College will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of the student's absence and their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.
- The school may make a referral to the Local Authority Home Hospital Teaching Service.

Reintegration into the school

- The Academy will work with providers of education, medical staff, educational psychologists, all relevant professionals, the parents/carers, and the students themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.
- When the student is ready to be reintegrated back to school, a review meeting will be arranged to discuss a healthcare plan and review any amendments to an existing timetable.
- Additional provision may include: an adaptive curriculum; a modified timetable; support from the Pastoral team; support from the Learning Support team. Consideration regarding a phased transition back into school via the academy's Achievement Centre will be given where appropriate.
- The Academy will ensure that students and staff in school who have maintained contact with the student will play a significant role in helping the student to settle back into school.
- The Academy will accept part time attendance where a student is medically unable to cope with a full day, until the student is able to attend for full school days.
- The Academy will make arrangements for students with mobility difficulties to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessments and seeking advice on lifting and handling processes where necessary.
- The Academy should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of student progress from additional service providers during the student's absence and evidence of work on the student's return to school.

If the Local Authority makes arrangements for education

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

- Education for a child would be considered unsuitable if the child was deemed to be missing education for an extended period.
- Education from the school would be unsuitable if the child was unable to attend school due to medical reasons for a substantial period of time.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements for education, the school will:

- Work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required
- Help ensure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that they can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - A) plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - B) enable the student to stay in touch with school life (eg through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events)
 - C) create an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child returning to school
 - D) consider whether any reasonable adjustments may be needed

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Medical Conditions Policy
- SEND Policy

Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents>

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/support-for-parents-and-pupils/medical-needs/> and also the government <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

This policy links with values 1 - Nothing but the best for all, 5 - Foundations for future success, and 7 - Healthy lives of Hummersknott Academy Trust's Vision and Values.

RESPONSIBILITY

This policy will be reviewed and updated where necessary by the Vice Principal Behaviour Welfare and Guidance and approved for adoption by the Health and Safety Committee.

PUBLICISING THE POLICY

A copy of this policy will be available on the Academy's website and the X Drive. Staff will be advised of amendments to this policy via the Staff Bulletin and are expected to familiarise themselves with the content.

POLICY STATUS

This is a statutory policy.