

Model Policy for the Education of Children Absent due to Health needs – FISHERGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

All Children and Young People (CYP) should continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows so that they are able to maintain the momentum of their education and to keep up with their studies.

The named person in school responsible for CYP unable to attend School is , Tina Clarke (head teacher).

To whom does the policy apply?

- School age children who are going to be absent from school for 15 school days or more as a result of ill health (including mental health), medical procedure or injury.
- Children who have recurring periods of absence as a result of ill health eg: cystic fibrosis.
- Children who are in hospital.

Provision of work

As soon as school is informed or becomes aware that a child of school age is to be absent through ill health for up to 15 school days, the class teacher will make some work available. This will usually be in core curriculum areas. The child will only be expected to complete the work if he/she is well enough. The work will be given as soon as possible after school becomes aware of the child's absence. This will be done in collaboration with parents/carers. This also applies to children who have recurring periods of absence due to ill health.

If the child is going to be absent for more than 15 days, an application will need to be made for teaching from the Physical and Health Needs team (PHN) and work provided will then need to be in more curriculum areas.

Monitoring Absences

The school will monitor absences due to ill health and takes all appropriate action to have all children in school.

Teaching away from school

If a child is to be away from school for a medical reason for more than 15 school days, the named person must initiate a referral for teaching through the Physical and Health Needs Teaching Team. The parent/carer will need to be on the premises if a child is educated at home. In some instances, the tuition may take place in a venue away from home e.g. a Children's Centre or library. Access to this teaching is flexible, depending on the child's health and medical appointments. The SENCo should make a referral by completing the referral form. In these circumstances parents/carers must provide medical evidence from a consultant to the school which confirms;

- i.** why the child is unable to attend school
- ii.** this is likely to be for 15 days or longer, preferably indicating an end date.

Statutory guidance states that evidence should be such as that provided by a consultant. For children with mental health issues there is an expectation that evidence is provided by the Children and

Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). For children who are receiving support through other Counselling Services, Policy_CYPwithLongTermMedicalNeeds_November2018, p17

evidence should be supplied from the relevant organisation. However, in order to avoid delays the PHN Needs Team will accept evidence from a GP if the young person is under a consultant but evidence is delayed.

The class teacher and named person will;

- i.** liaise with the PHN Team to enable them to draw up a plan to provide education for a child who is likely to be off school for more than 15 school days and for children with recurrent absence as a result of ill health.
- ii.** provide resources for the full curriculum via the parent/carer so that the CYP can follow the programmes of work as far as he or she is able.
- iii.** provide information about the child's capabilities and educational progress e.g. special educational needs (SEN) within 5 working days.
- iv.** ensure that children who are unable to attend school because of health needs are kept informed about school social events and extracurricular activities that may be appropriate for them to attend. **v.** encourage and facilitate liaison and communication with peers.
- vi.** liaise with the Teaching Team to formulate a plan for the child to return to school and ensure that peers are involved in supporting this return.

Partnership with parents/carers and children

The views of the child and families should be central to planning to meet the child's needs. Parents/carers should liaise with the school so that the child can be provided with resources to support their learning as soon as they become able to cope with it for absences that are expected to last for 15 working days or are not part of a pattern of recurring illness. Parents/carers will:

- be consulted before teaching begins at home or in the community.
- Always be on the premises when a child is taught at home.
- Be key in supporting the continuum of educational provision and the links between home and school.
- be central to planning the education programme and information share about their child's performance.

Children in hospital

Support can be provided for children who are in-patients in hospitals in York and who are likely to remain on the Children's ward for 15 days or longer.

Examinations

If a Year 6 child is not in school during the SATs it is the responsibility of the school to make alternative arrangements if appropriate

If a Year 6 child is absent for less than 15 school days including SATs week, the decision regarding SATs will be made by the head teacher.

Policy approved by: Fishergate Full Governing Body

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