



# Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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Person responsible for overseeing the implementation: CEO & Headteachers

Chair of Trustees signature: *C.L. Chevassut*

Myton School

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Person Responsible for policy: Mr Neil Phipps

## Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

At Myton, our Vision is to equip students for lifelong success. We do this through our core principles of:

- Developing self-assured learners
- Removing barriers
- Working together
- Investing in futures

We guide students to CARE, so all students can achieve lifelong success by being:

- **Community Minded:** always thinking of others
- **Aspirational:** having high standards for themselves, their futures, and for those around them
- **Respectful:** of themselves, their peers and their community
- **Engaged:** in their learning and the world around them

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

Many children and young people at some time have a medical condition which may prevent them from attending school. At Myton School we work in partnership with students, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children who have medical needs to be able to receive an education in an appropriate setting.

The school recognises that students who are absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits. This education should be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible to achieve reintegration back into school in as smooth a manner as possible.

### Legislation and guidance

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

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

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

This policy operates in conjunction with the following policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

### **Introduction**

Myton School works in partnership with students, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. The school will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of students on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to students unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a student should or could not attend school. This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the student remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition. The principles underlying this policy are:

- ✦ The school recognises that students absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- ✦ The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

### **School's Responsibility**

- In the first instance, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the school that there is an ongoing medical condition which is impacting the student's ability to access education. Medical professional advice will be required for students with medical conditions which impact on their attendance in line with the school's Attendance Policy.
- The designated pastoral member of staff (usually the Head of Year or Pastoral Leader) will make contact with the parent/carer to discuss the medical condition and ensure measures are in place to support the student.
- A plan will be drawn together working with parents/carers to ensure there are arrangements in place for education which are appropriate. This could include strategies such as:
  - Sending a pack of work home
  - Using the school's online homework platform for teachers to upload lessons and work
  - Bespoke materials from school focusing on specific areas of the curriculum
  - Home visits or tutoring
  - Referrals to support in or out of school, such as a mentor, safe spaces or Early Support pathway for family support
  - Referral to Warwickshire Attendance Service and the Flexible Learning Team

- During this process, a collaborative approach is of vital importance. Parents/carers have an important role to play in the formation of a plan, and the student should also be involved in decision making from the start.
- A part time timetable may be put in place to support the student to maintain contact with peers and to reintegrate back into school. A designated member of the Senior Leadership Team will approve any actions.

When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, the school will liaise with the Local Authority to arrange suitable educational provision.

When making a referral to the Flexible Learning Team, medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage. Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the student should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the student with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education of education for the student by providing:

- ✦ Medium term planning
- ✦ Schemes of work
- ✦ Appropriate resources
- ✦ Information relating to the student's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, the School 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 School will aim to provide a pack of work for the student to take into hospital with them. The school will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at Myton Staff and the staff providing the education otherwise.

### **Reintegration**

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, other relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the student themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where students are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the student is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make arrangements for students with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary.

It is acknowledged that learning can be severely impacted by long term absence. The school will work closely with SENDAR if a student with an Education Health and Care Plan is going to be absent from school through health needs. The school will retain responsibility for co-ordinating the Annual Review meetings.

The school will support and advise students and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence. The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of student progress from the service provider during the student's absence and a folder of work on return to school. The Headteacher, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a student's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

### **Public Examinations**

Wherever possible, children and young people with medical needs will be entered for public examinations. Myton School will endeavour to work with other education providers to ensure that coursework is completed, and that sufficient educational input is made to enable each student to reach their full potential. In some cases, the school will need to make special arrangements with Awarding Bodies for children and young people who are unable to attend school because of their health needs.

The entry for exams, making of access arrangements and the marking of GCSE coursework will remain the responsibility of Myton School.

As the time for public examinations approaches children and young people and parents will be fully consulted with by the designated member of staff so that their wishes may be taken into consideration.