

## Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

*Maple Tree is an inclusive, kind and positive school that models respect and embraces diversity and equality - where **everyone** feels safe and is encouraged to be the best they can be.*

|                                        |                     |                                 |          |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Review frequency</b>                | Annually            | <b>Reviewed</b>                 | June 26  |
| <b>Governing Committee Responsible</b> | Full Governing Body | <b>Governor Approval (date)</b> | 08.07.26 |
| <b>Website</b>                         | Yes                 |                                 |          |
| <b>Staff Responsible</b>               | Urbee Roy, SENDCo   | <b>Next review</b>              | June 27  |

### 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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

### 2. Legislation and guidance

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

[Section 19 of the Education Act 1996](#)

[Equality Act 2010](#)

[Data Protection Act 2018](#)

DfE (2023) Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school – statutory guidance for local authorities and governing bodies.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Responsibilities

#### 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

Once the school has been made aware of a child's health needs, affecting their ability to attend school on a regular basis, an initial meeting will be organised. Present at the meeting will be the parents, the school Attendance Officer and the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo). Initial discussions regarding the health conditions and child's needs will then be reported. The school can then assess what processes will be best to support the child to ensure full-time education can be reasonably achieved.

The following guidelines must be put in place to ensure a safe and smooth integration for learning at home if in the first instance the child's health is such that physically being in school full-time, is not possible.

- Set-up for online learning with google/the school's current remote learning facilities.
- Correct parental contacts and home address.
- Senior Leadership Team to be advised.
- All class teachers provided with contact information.
- Timetable adjustments where necessary.
- Access to the curriculum and materials.
- Maintain contact with classmates to ensure the child continues to feel part of the school community.
- Delivery of workbooks and school materials (including a technology device if necessary) to the home address, whenever necessary.
- Weekly monitoring and communication will be put in place and regular contact made with the family through telephone calls, google meetings and face to face, where possible.
- A timeline will be set, where possible, determined by the type of health condition or on-going medical need and any treatment.
- The family will have one main point of contact within school for continuity.

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

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Central Bedfordshire Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

As soon as it is clear that a child will be absent for more than 15 days, this can either be consecutive days or a total number of days over a period of time, the local authority must make sure that suitable education is provided. The LA must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health will allow) for children of compulsory school age, who because of their illness cannot receive suitable education in school.

- Set-up for online learning with google/the schools current remote learning facilities.
- The school liaise with the Medical Needs Education Team (MNET).
- They will liaise with suitable medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure the education received is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate examinations, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as is appropriately possible.
- Address the needs of the child on an individual basis, when arranging the education provision.
- Ensure that the children with health needs are receiving the equivalent provision that they would receive in school. This may be full or part-time, based on the best interests of the child but should aim to achieve good academic attainment in English, Maths and Science.
- There should be a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and parents should know who that person is.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure it continues to be appropriate for that child.
- Work together with the school, agencies and families to ensure the best outcomes for the child. The LA will ensure that teachers who provide education for children with additional health needs will receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments.
- They will also be given suitable information relating to the child's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication may have on the child. For further information on what the Local Authority provides should your child have health issues that prevent them attending full-time school, please

read the DfE statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs updated in December 2023.'

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents 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, work with the local authority to:
  - 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)
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

### **3.3 Parental responsibility if the school and/or local authority make arrangements:**

- Work proactively alongside the school to support their child's continuous education and engagement, maintaining open communication regarding medical barriers to attendance.
- Work in partnership with the school and/or the local authority to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the school and/or the local authority of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school and/or the local authority with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

## **4. Monitoring arrangements**

The School Governing Body will ensure the policy is developed collaboratively across services, clearly identifies roles and responsibilities and is implemented effectively.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Cath Bainbridge, Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

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

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy