John Perry Primary School

Supporting pupils with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Written and reviewed: January 2024

Next Review Date: January 2026

Introduction

John Perry Primary School aims to support the LA and ensure that all pupils who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all pupils with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

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

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, Barking and Dagenham Council.

Definitions

Pupils who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions

- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

Pupils who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

● Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the pupil is receiving treatment

● Home tuition: the LA offers a home tuition service that acts as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment. This service is provided for pupils who will be absent from school for more than 3 weeks.

Responsibilities

If the school makes arrangements

- Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for pupils with health needs who cannot attend school.
- The pupil's Class Teacher will be responsible for ensuring work is sent home and is in line with the curriculum and will utilise remote working where possible.
- Families will be encouraged to keep in touch with the school and support the pupil to access their school work.
- Microsoft teams will be utilised if appropriate for lessons and homework will be set via email. Alternatively, if paper copies are preferred, arrangements can be made for the family to collect from the school office.
- Re-integration will be carefully considered and a phased return plan will be put in place if this is in the pupil's best interest.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Barking and Dagenham Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

Inclusion Lead

The Inclusion Lead is responsible for learners with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, learners, the LA, key workers and others involved in the learner's care.

The Inclusion Lead at our school is **Mrs Walker**, supported by **Mrs Gabi**, the **SENCo**. You can contact them by phoning the school on 020 8270 4622

Role of the Inclusion Lead

• Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of learners with health needs.

• Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet learner's health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.

• Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual learners.

• Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting learners with health needs.

• Providing teachers who support learners with health needs with suitable information relating to a learner's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the learner.

• Notifying the LA when a learner is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

• Actively monitoring these learners' progress and re-integration.

Teachers and Support Staff

All staff within schools with learners with health needs have a responsibility to:

• Understand confidentiality in respect of learner's health needs.

• Design lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully

• Understand their role in supporting learners with health needs, including ensuring they attend the required training.

• Ensure they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.

• Ensure they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.

• Keep parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

Parents

Parents have the responsibility to:

• Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.

• Provide the school 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.

• Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.

• Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Inclusion Lead and the Headteacher. The next review will be in January 2026.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions