Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Policy

2025/2026

PARTNERSHIPS | OPPORTUNITY | INTEGRITY | EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | PEOPLE-

Heworth Grange School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs

> This policy sets out our approach to children with health needs who cannot attend school across Heworth Grange Academy.
>
> Section 3 set(s) out the specific local arrangements for Heworth Grange School.

- 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 reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority. https://educationgateshead.org/education-support-service/

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

It is the duty of the pupil's school to provide learning resources that enable the pupil to access a broad and balanced curriculum and ensure continuity in the pupil's education.

3.1 School Arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. These arrangements are normally for the first 15 school days of absence.

The Vice Principal (Quality of Education) is responsible for ensuring that suitable education arrangements are in place.

The Head of Year for the pupil will be responsible for the co-ordination between school and the parents/guardian of the pupil for the dissemination of allocated work for the duration of the absence.

Work will be collated by the pupils' teachers and placed on Class Charts to enable the pupil to access the work remotely.

Where a pupil does not have a suitable device to access Class Charts remotely a laptop will be provided by the school where available. The school is not responsible for the supply or financial costs of internet provision. In circumstances where internet provision is not available the school will provide physical copies of work to the pupil via their parents/guardians.

Pupils returning to school from an absence will attend a meeting with their Head of Year prior to their return to determine the best strategy to reintegrate back into school, whilst ensuring that any medical needs of the pupil are met. Where necessary a risk assessment and a Healthcare/Care Plan will be undertaken and put in place.

To further support pupils returning to school following long absence (such as medical absence) Heworth Grange Academy will consider a short term placement in The View Provision.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

I Where absences extend beyond 15 school days, Heworth Grange Academy will review education support with Gateshead Council to arrange suitable tuition for these pupils. The school must request a referral using the Education Inclusion Panel (EIP).

The local authority will arrange a Personal Education Plan meeting between the school, the pupil (if possible), parents/carers,

tutor, medical personnel (if appropriate) and Named Contact Person.

Individual Curriculum Learning Plans will be generated by the school. The school will provide a full set of resources for a

minimum of 4 weeks work.

For pupils on long term provision, a Personal Education Plan Review meeting must take place once per term. The Local Authority and Heworth Grange Academy will review pupil progress and if the offer of education support is still appropriate.

For pupils on short term provision, a Personal Education Plan Review should take place at least 4 weeks before the scheduled

end of the programme to plan the return to education within Heworth Grange Academy.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school and trust 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Vice Principal (Quality of Education). At every review, it will be approved by the full board of trustees.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions