



Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service

Education of Children who are unable to attend School because of Medical Needs Policy

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Introduction

This policy takes account of the Statutory Guidance “Arranging education for children who cannot attend school due to health needs” (DfE – December 2023).

Local Authorities are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of the school and whatever type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in Academies, Free Schools, Special Schools and Independent Schools as well as those in Maintained Schools.

Furthermore this guidance also states that the Local Authority should:

- Have a named Officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and parents should know who that person is.
- Have a written, public, accessible policy statement on their arrangement to comply with their legal duties towards children with additional health needs. The Policy should make links with related Services in the area, for example Special Educational Needs and Disability Service, SENDIST, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), BeeU, Education Welfare/Attendance, Improvement Services, Educational Psychologists and where relevant other health providers.
- Review the provision offered, regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

The Service is responsible for providing education for medically referred students who are unable to attend school. Depending on their individual circumstances teaching can take place in a number of settings.

Locations

The Service currently provides direct teaching in:

The Children’s Centre at Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, supporting students who are hospitalised.

The Robert Jones and Dame Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, supporting students hospitalised for long term orthopaedic procedures.

One of a number of Education Centres based around the County, which can provide education for students who are unable to attend school due to chronic illness or mental health difficulties.

Individual tuition in student’s homes – for short term students who are recovering from illness and unable to attend either their own school or an Education Centre. Please see policy **Education of children who are unable to attend school due to short term medical need policy**.

Aims

The aim of the Service is to support students by providing quality education for the period they are unable to access mainstream school. The Service recognises that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their mainstream school, and we aim to reintegrate students back into mainstream education at the earliest opportunity.

Whilst the Tuition Service has a responsibility to provide direct teaching for medically referred students, we also work closely with other Agencies to ensure students have access to Educational Psychologists, Education Welfare Service, Post 16 Advisers and on-going medical advice. The Service takes great care to maintain links with mainstream school and keep parents fully informed in both process and decision making regarding the child's programme and progress.

Referral to the Service

Referral on medical grounds to the Tuition Service must originate from a Consultant Paediatrician, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist or Medical Practitioner. Best practice dictates that these referrals are supported with information from the student's mainstream school and Education Welfare Service.

Action Required to Initiate Referral

If a school is concerned about a student:

The school should discuss the individual case with the student's parents and the school's Education Welfare Officer, establishing the medical needs of the student. They should then ensure that written medical advice and other supportive information, including Referral Form, is forwarded to Education Access Team, Learning and Skills Directorate, Shirehall or emailed to inclusion@shropshire.gov.uk

Partnership with Schools

- During the period the student is on tuition, the school will be expected to take an active role in supporting through supply of curriculum materials and books; liaising with tuition staff over planning; making sure access is available for examination materials; making arrangements for SATS and GCSE's where appropriate. This can include home invigilation, assessment for access arrangements, Entry Level papers and supporting materials. Most importantly, ensuring that there is a named teacher within school who can co-ordinate and support links with TMBSS.

What the Service aims to do

TMBSS will promote student's future wellbeing by:

- Reviewing and assessing their progress on a regular basis.
- Building their confidence and self-esteem.
- Working in partnership to support the child back into school.

To this end the Service will:

- Offer a range of subjects to each student to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Concentrate on areas of interest and achievement and on any special educational needs.
- Ensure that students returning to school follow the appropriate Curriculum to make the return to school easier.
- Follow the broad outlines of the National Curriculum as they relate to each Key Stage.
- Complete accurate attendance records.
- Attend Review Meetings.
- Ensure TMBSS teachers receive appropriate In-Service training and professional support.
- Oversee the reintegration of students back into school where necessary.
- Liaise with medical staff and other professionals working with the child.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the Service is undertaken through the monitoring of teaching and learning outcomes in conjunction with the TMBSS Executive Headteacher, TMBSS Head of School, TMBSS Outreach Manager, TMBSS Centre Manager, schools, parents and other professionals and reported to Governors at the Summer Term meeting.

Related Documents

- DfE Arranging education for children who cannot attend school due to health needs December 2023
- DfE: Equality Act 2010
- DfE 2014 Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.