

GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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POLICY FOR CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CAN'T ATTEND SCHOOL

Signed ... 

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Chair of Governors

Date: March 2024

Signed 

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Date: March 2024

1. Aims

1.1 This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Children, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

2. Legislation and guidance

2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

3. The Responsibilities of the School

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

- Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.
- Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the hospital teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the learner should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the learner 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.
- Gillingstool Primary School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the learner through:
 - Working in partnership with the Hospital Tuition Service, to attend or host review meetings as the learner remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility
 - Providing, where required, programmes of study/schemes of work, appropriate resources, information relating to the learner's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special educational needs information.
 - Aiming to provide a pack of work for the learner to take into hospital with them, where learners have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital,

3.2 Reintegration into the School

- The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the learner themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

- The school will ensure that the learners and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the child who has been absent will play a significant role helping them to settle back into school.
- The school will accept part-time attendance where learners are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the learner is able to attend for full school days. All reduced offer arrangements will be recorded and schools will provide details of these arrangements as required.
- The school will arrange for learners 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. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the school budget or via review cluster funding where appropriate.
- Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the learner. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both the school and the education provider will support and advise learners and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.
- The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of learner progress from the Hospital Education Service and a folder of work on return to school.
- The Headteacher and SENCO will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a learner's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

3.3 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

- If the school can't make suitable arrangements, South Gloucestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Statutory guidance - Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, January 2013, states that local authorities must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.
- Local authorities should provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then the school should refer the learner to the Pathways Learning Centre. Medical evidence will be required and should be attached to the referral, if possible, at this stage. If the home address is outside of the South Gloucestershire area, arrangements should be made via Bristol alternative learning provision <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-earlyyears/alternative-learning-provision>
- Pathways Learning Centre offers flexible education programmes for students who are unable to attend school because of significant medical needs, who will be absent for 15 days

or more, and whose needs cannot be reasonably met by adjustments within mainstream. These students would typically be under the care of a Consultant Paediatrician.

- Pathways Learning Centre also offers flexible education programmes for students who are unable to attend school because of significant mental health difficulties and whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream provision. These students would typically be under the care of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

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 learner;
- share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- help make sure that the provision offered to the learner is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully; and
- 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 learner to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible;
 - enable the learner 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; and
 - consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually.

5. Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies: Accessibility Policy. Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.