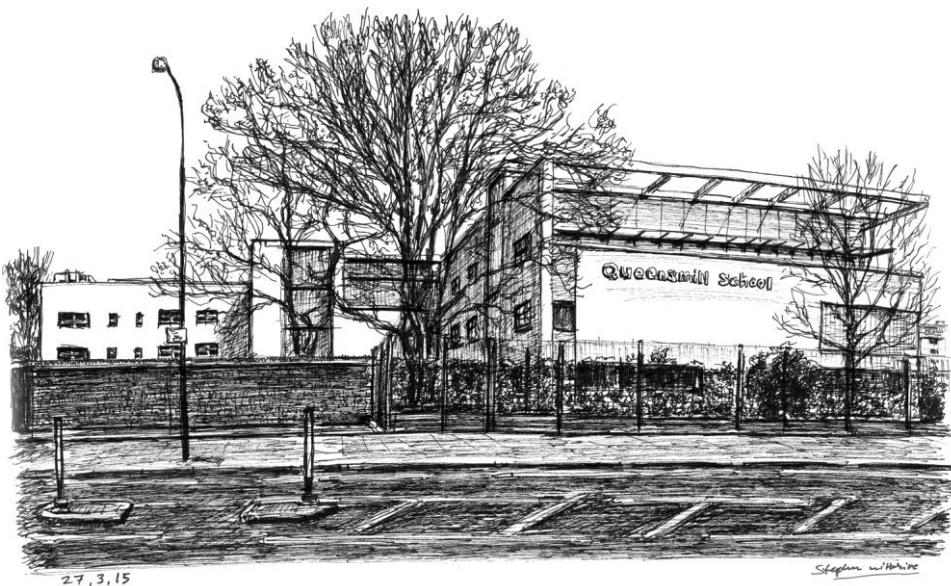




Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Approved by:	Aymeline Bel	Date: March 2023
Last reviewed on:	March 2023	
Next review due by:	March 2024	

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 reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

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

- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority

3. Responsibilities of the school

At Queensmill School, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education Guidance and work with the Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream school because of their health.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where the child can still attend school with some support. Where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; we would not expect the Local Authority to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently

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.

This will involve:

- Initial contact being made by a member of the SMT to establish the child's individual medical need and potential barriers to attending school
- Arrangements being agreed and established e.g. sending work home (including the provision of virtual learning through school's identified learning programmes), teaching assistant or therapy assistant attending to home to deliver sessions or additional adult support within school (in line with an individual health care plan as appropriate)
- On-going discussions between families, school and health providers to monitor agreed arrangements and identify when/ how pupils can be reintegrated back into school (where appropriate)

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

Schools should make appropriate referrals to the Medical Needs Co-ordinator for pupils unable to attend school due to health reasons where it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. In these circumstances parents/carers must take medical evidence in to the school which confirms why the pupil is unable to attend school and states how long this is likely to be the case. Statutory guidance states that evidence should be such as that provided by a consultant, however in order to avoid delays the Medical Needs Co-ordinator will accept evidence from a GP if the young person is under a consultant but evidence is delayed.

Queensmill School can refer pupils to the Medical Needs Co-ordinator using the medical needs referral form available via the following link <http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/lbhf/fis/advice.page?id=uVHu2RbgdzM> on the Hammersmith and Fulham website

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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by Aymeline Bel, Head of School and Lisha Rooney, Chair of Governors.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- First aid
- Health and safety
- Safeguarding