



# Children With Medical Needs Who Can't Attend School

*“At the Parkland Federation, we strive for excellence in all we do. Learning is exciting, inclusive, dynamic and challenging. The highest standards of behaviour are always promoted. Here, the children are supported to succeed through taking risks and learning from mistakes. Pupils are prepared to become responsible, informed and creative global citizens who will contribute with insight, understanding and compassion to the rapidly changing world we live in (School Vision Statement June 2019).”*

Approval Date	Policy Reviewer	Title	Chair of Governors
01.12.20	Ms Sally Simpson	Head of School	Jane McCarthy-Penman

## **THE PARKLAND FEDERATION**

### **Children With Medical Needs Who Can't Attend School**

This policy aims to ensure two key things. Firstly, that suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs. Secondly, that pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority (ESCC).

#### **Legislation and Guidance**

This Policy also refers to the DfE document: **'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, Statutory guidance for local authorities'**, January 2013.

This policy has been written in accordance with the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#). It is also based on the guidance provided by our local authority (ESCC) in their document found below on children with long term health needs.

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/14126/east-sussex-education-of-children-with-health-needs-policy-oct-2019.pdf>

This policy also complies with Swale Academies Trust and Parkland's School funding agreement and articles of association.

#### **East Sussex Local Authority Responsibilities**

The relevant alternative education service provider is the **Teaching & Learning Provision (TLP)** which sits within Children's Services - ISEND. TLP is responsible for ensuring that pupils who are absent or likely to be absent from school due to health needs for more than 15 working days either consecutive or cumulative with the same medical condition, including pupils who suffer from a recurring chronic condition, are provided with suitable full time education. Unless the pupil's condition means that full-time provision would not be in his or her best interests. Full-time education is not defined in law but it should equate to what the pupil would normally have in school. For example, for pupils in Key Stage 2, full-time education in a school would usually be 25 hours a week. If they receive one to one teaching, the hours of face to face provision will be fewer as the provision is more concentrated. East Sussex is responsible for ensuring that there is a named senior officer with responsibility for the provision of education for children and young people who are unable to attend school because of medical needs. In East Sussex the officer is Chloe Cushing (TLP Senior Coordinator).

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TLP will ensure that provision offered is regularly reviewed and continues to be appropriate for the pupil. The aim of this provision is to:

- ★ minimise disruption to learning
- ★ deliver an appropriate and personalised education
- ★ successfully reintegrate pupils into mainstream provision at the earliest opportunity when they are well enough to return.

TLP will deliver suitable personalised provision based on the level of need and age which will include some or all of the following:

- ★ Individual one to one teaching in the home or hospital or other suitable venue such as a public library with follow up work delivered by support workers
- ★ Support worker sessions to aid transition to school

The focus of the provision will be on core and examination entry subjects however TLP will make all reasonable attempts to provide a broad and balanced curriculum including social and emotional aspects of learning. Provision will change in response to the changing health status of the child. TLP will provide educational progress reports three times a year and feedback via pupil voice at each personal educational planning (PEP) review meeting and regularly inform schools of the attendance and engagement of the pupil. TLP will ensure that all service staff access regular high quality continuous professional development and are kept up to date with educational developments and current good practice.

### **School Responsibilities**

A pupil unable to attend school because of health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the Head of School, even if TLP have become responsible for the pupil's education. Prime responsibility for their education lies with the school. Continuity is important for the pupil. Knowing that they can return to their school friends can help their recovery and educational progress. Where the pupil is receiving education via TLP the school will use the code B to represent this absence in the school register for the sessions accessed by the pupil. Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 sets out the circumstances in which a pupil can be deleted from a school's admission register. Schools are responsible for providing support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a shorter period than 15 days for example by enabling access to the Google Classroom or sending work home. In some cases where a pupil is hospitalised for a protracted period of time, education is provided by a hospital school. In such cases the hospital

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school will liaise directly with the school. In some cases TLP may support the planning of provision.

The SENCO is the named contact person to liaise with TLP, parents and health professionals. The SENCO will liaise with TLP to arrange personal educational planning meetings usually held in the school or in the home every 6 to 8 weeks. Parents, pupils, health professionals and any other involved parties will be invited to attend. The SENCO will ensure that class teachers provide TLP with all necessary curriculum resources in order that the pupil can complete courses and prepare for assessments. The school will provide opportunities for the pupil to maintain contact with their peers and the wider school community through newsletters, invitations to performances and events etc. The school will provide TLP with all relevant educational information, including prior assessments, attainment and achievement, curriculum details, any assessments due etc. The school will apply to the awarding body for any necessary special arrangements for pupils with disabilities or indispositions for example allowing pupils to sit examinations in a venue other than at school.

Schools should make a referral to TLP at the earliest date when a pupil is too sick to attend school using the ISEND Front Door referral form. Medical evidence from a medical practitioner (paediatrician or CAHMS) stating that the pupil is currently too sick to attend school needs to be attached to the referral. The referral needs to include details of the reasonable adjustments in place and the dates of the review meetings and a copy of the active Additional Needs Plan. To avoid delay in provision TLP will support pupils absent from school who are currently supported at GP level but medical evidence from the GP needs to state that further investigation from a medical consultant has been sought. TLP will write to the school via email to state whether the referral has been accepted. If the referral is not accepted a reason will be given and the school may be signposted to another agency. TLP will contact the school and ask them to arrange a PEP meeting at the school, where possible. The provision agreed will be informed by advice from medical professionals, the school, the views of the parents and the pupil. Where the pupil's illness is protracted, updated medical evidence will be requested.

### **Reintegration**

We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their mainstream school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into mainstream education at the earliest opportunity and as soon as they are well enough. Arrangements for reintegration will be discussed with school staff and each pupil will have a personalised reintegration plan. Information is also available through the SEN Matrix. TLP will

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support the reintegration of a pupil where necessary by allocating a support worker. Schools will facilitate the successful reintegration of pupils who have sufficiently recovered by making any necessary reasonable adjustments under Equalities Legislation, which may include for example a gradual reintegration, additional adult support or attendance at a learning support facility within the school

#### **Links to Other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- The Parkland Accessibility Plan
- The Supporting pupils with Medical Conditions Policy