



BOND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Children with Medical Conditions Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Next review: March 2024

At Bond Primary School, our primary aim and core purpose is to ensure that all children regardless of their circumstances or environment receive a good holistic education to foster a thirst of lifelong. We recognise that there may be instances when a child is unable to attend school because of their health needs. In such cases, Bond Primary School will follow the DfE guidance and will work with Merton Local Authority to make necessary arrangements for access to full time /part-time education provision.

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

Legislation and guidance:

This policy reflects the requirements of the:

[Education Act 1996](#);

Equality Act 2012

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Medicines Act 1968

Regulation 5 of the School Premises (England) Regulation 2012 (as amended)

The Special Education Needs Code of Practice

It is also based on guidance provided from the DfE – Statutory guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

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; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school, 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.

Expectations of the Local Authority

If the school are unable to make suitable arrangements, Merton local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Where the Local Authority is involved in arranging provision, the expectation from the school is that the LA will:

- 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.

- 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.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.
- Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Where appropriate, use electronic media – such as 'virtual classrooms', learning platforms and so on – to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to Page 2 of 2 complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child's health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).
- ensure that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to a child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Set up a personal education plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school or other provider can work together.
- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs. Monitoring and Evaluation The Governing Body is responsible for updating this Policy annually.

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

Responsibilities of the school

If a child cannot school due to a long term medical condition the school may consider a referral to Melbury College to consider how best to support the child's education.

- The school SENDco will be responsible for making and monitoring the arrangements
- The arrangements could include some of those cited above i.e. remote learning, sending work home, hospital schools.
- Meetings with Parents/Carers will be held to discuss and agree arrangements with the support of external agencies involved with the care of the child as appropriate
- In consultation with parents/carers and medical professionals, a reintegration plan will be formulated clearly detailing any further adjustments needed to secure successful, reintegration, who will be involved in supporting child's reintegration and timescales for review. The view of the child will be sought as appropriate to ensure that the child's well-being and views are considered in the plan.

Links to other policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions
- SEND Policy and Information Report
- Attendance Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
- Complaints policy