LINCOLN ANGLICAN ACADEMY TRUST
DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Proverbs 22:6 *Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

Document Title	**Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School**
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Version Number	V1.1
Date Approved	June 2024
Approved By	LAAT Board

Policy Category	1	Trust/Academies to use without amendment
	2	**Academy specific appendices**
(Please Indicate)	3	Academy personalisation required (in highlighted fields)

Summary of Changes from Previous Version

Version	Date	Author	Note/Summary of Revisions
V1	May 2023	Nicky Bailey	Complete re-write using template from 'The Key'
V1.1	June 2024	Nicky Bailey	Annual review - no changes required

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

The LAAT aims to support the Local Authority and ensure that all students who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as full an education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough. Where this is not possible, we will work to provide an appropriate level of education remotely while alternative provision is established.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all students with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.
This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following Trust policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

3. Responsibilities of the school

The school will follow the Department for Education and Local Authority guidance. The school will provide relevant resources/information for any child absent from school as a result of a medical condition, where this is appropriate in discussion with parents/carers.

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.

These arrangements will include:

- The Headteacher/SENCO will liaise with the parents/carers to make the necessary arrangements and discuss appropriate education to be delivered.
- The Class Teacher will be responsible for providing materials whether online or paper
- The Headteacher/SENCO will be responsible for monitoring the provision of the educational arrangements, and for arranging any reintegration as necessary for the child upon their return to school.

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.

As soon as it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to arrange appropriate provision.

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, the school will 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.

Appendix 1 – For Lincolnshire County Council Schools only

EXCEPTIONS TO PROVISION OF SCHOOL BASED SUPPORT

There are occasional situations where due to the nature of the pupil's illness or sudden injury the school is not able to effectively implement school based support and this necessitates a direct referral to Pilgrim Hospital School. Usually this would be in response to a serious injury sustained by the student precluding attendance at school or a planned operation and discharge home and where medical advice is clear that return to school is not appropriate. Schools should always contact Pupil Reintegration Team for advice and guidance in any such situation.

Where a pupil has a health needs which cannot be met by the support schools have established, a full review should be arranged

The review will consider:

A) What other support could be established

B) if a referral for a placement with the Pilgrim Hospital School should be completed.

Where it is evidenced that school based support is insufficient to ensure a pupil is able to access broad and balanced curriculum, (unable to access, not refusing to) and, the school can demonstrate that it has taken all possible steps to address or respond to the situation without success; the school should consider submitting a referral to the Local Authority for support from Pilgrim Hospital School. The referral must be supported by the following documentation:

- Robust medical evidence from a consultant or medical professional which illustrates that the pupil is unable to access their usual place of learning due to their current health needs.
- For Anxiety led school refusal, evidence of the support that the school has established in response to the pupils health needs.
- Copy of the school Attendance register showing 15 days consecutive absence from school.
- The form must be signed by parent, school and wherever possible pupil. The Pupil Reintegration Team will assess any referral forms submitted and where these do not meet the above criteria, or there are omissions, the referral will be declined and returned to the school with advice or a request for more documentation. Referrals will be considered at the Pilgrim Hospital School referral panel which meets each week and the outcome notified to the school within 3 working days of the panel meeting.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

This is a Lincolnshire County Council pathway designed to support pupils in Lincolnshire to attend school when they may be experiencing emotional wellbeing difficulties. It is the responsibility of school professionals to undertake steps one to three of the EBSA ladder prior to contacting Healthy Minds Lincolnshire (HML) or Mental Health Support Teams (MHST).

If the decision is then made that HML or MHST support is required, then school can contact their HML Clinical Lead Practitioner or MHST Link Practitioner on the numbers below or email lincs.spa@nhs.net requesting EBSA consultation. Schools may wish to request HML or MHST attendance at the first review, or a later review, dependent on the progress made.