

APRIL 2022



SUPPORTING PUPILS WHO  
CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL DUE  
TO MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY

**HORIZONS EDUCATION TRUST  
AMERICAN LANE, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE. PE29 1TQ**

## **Statement of Intent**

Horizons Education Trust aims to support the local authority (LA) and ensure that all children 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 much education as their medical conditions allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognised that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

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

## **Legal Framework**

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

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
- 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) Support pupils in school with medical conditions – statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England.

## **The Local Authority**

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. This is in collaboration with SEN Caseworkers liaising with the school.

The LA should ensure the education children receive is of good quality as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate back into school as soon as possible.

LAs should provide education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative where no suitable education has been arranged.

## **Horizons Education Trust**

Our school will:

- Ensure the Local Authority is informed of any student who has had fifteen or more consecutive days of illness, which cannot be managed outside of our normal special school provision. The school may also inform the Local Authority earlier than this.
- Work with the LA to ensure arrangements are in place for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs.

- Work collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of the pupil.
- Ensure regular reviews of the arrangements are in place.
- Ensure the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangement to support the pupils are understood by all.
- Ensure that our staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained in line with our Supporting Students with Medical Needs policy.
- Where a pupil needs the support to maintain education there will be collaboration via the school and LA on the advice of the medical professional responsible for the student's case. The school will take the lead role in planning and reviewing the student's provision in conjunction with the SEN Casework Officers.
- When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA. The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The trust supports the right of all pupils and staff to equal access and opportunities regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, social circumstances, ability/disability and sexuality. The trust adopts an inclusive approach to pupil needs.

### **Health & Safety**

Health and safety issues are described fully in the school Health & Safety Policy. It is the responsibility of each adult to report health & safety issues without delay.

The health & safety of the pupil referred and the present pupils will always be considered as part of an admission decision. A risk assessment may need to be carried out.

### **Professional Development**

All staff are provided with training opportunities to deliver the curriculum where appropriate. Training needs will be linked to staff appraisal, staff interviews and school improvement plan.

Additional training will be provided for staff where a pupil admission results in an area of special educational needs not previously resourced or where staff skills and knowledge are not felt to be adequate for the additional need.

The School Nursing service will support any additional training required for staff, much of this on a pupil specific, competency basis.

Policy agreed on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed on behalf of the Trustees \_\_\_\_\_

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Review date (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Website Y/N