



## EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS

### WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

January 2021

#### 1. Introduction

Shamblehurst Primary School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. Our school will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision and overcome barriers.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition. The principles underlying this policy are:

- The school recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

#### 2. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. This will be as soon as an absence is known to be going to last more than 15 school days, or exceeds 15 days, and should do so at the latest by the sixth day of absence and aim to do so by the first day of absence for planned medical absence. This includes children who are classed as Critically Extremely Vulnerable during Covid lockdowns. This work may be set online using Seesaw/Tapestry or paper copies provided.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with parents and medical professionals with regard to if a child is able to complete work.

Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil, taking account (as appropriate) the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education of for the pupil by providing:

- Personal education plan
- Appropriate resources

- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

The school will consider the pupils social and emotional needs, for example ensuring that the pupil still feels fully part of their school.

If the pupil is due to sit examinations, the school will endeavour to provide education to minimise the impact on these of the time lost due the child is unable to attend school. The school will also liaise with the relevant authorities to make arrangements for any special needs a child may have when sitting these during their illness or convalescence.

### 3. Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organizing risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary.

The school will work with parents regarding the pupil's medical needs when they return. This policy should be read in conjunction with our 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' Policy.

The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional class support may be required.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. The school will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The Headteacher will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The teachers involved will also be made aware of any medication or support the pupil may need while in school.

The Headteacher will report to the Directors/Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.