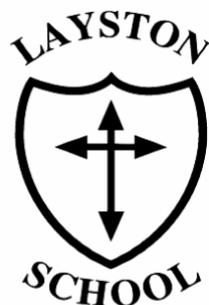




# Layston C of E First School



## Policy for children who cannot attend school for medical reasons

Written July 2021

Next review due July 2022

**Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed in full by the *Governing Body* annually.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the *Governing Body* on .

It is due for review in summer 2022 (up to 1 year from the above date) by the *Governing Body*.

Signature: A McMurrough .....

Date .....

Head Teacher

Signature: M McGarry .....

Date .....

Chair of *Governors*



# Policy for children who cannot attend school for medical reasons

## **School's mission statement & ethos**

*Loving to learn, learning to love; for every child a chance to shine.*

At Layston School we pride ourselves in fostering a nurturing environment for all where we promote positive physical health, mental wellbeing and spiritual and social connection. We help our pupils acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they will need to face their futures with confidence and thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. We maintain that everyone within our school community is of unique value and teach and expect tolerance and compassion. Our commitment to a nurturing culture and environment, embedded in our Christian ethos, supports the academic as well as social and emotional needs of our pupils.

## **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.

[DfE: Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

[DfE: Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs/medical-absence>

## **The responsibilities of the school**

In the case of a child being unable to attend school for medical reasons their education can either be:

- provided by the school via remote learning (see the school website) and liaison with key staff
- provided by the county via ESMA – Education Support for Medical Absence - if your child is unable to come to school for more than 3 weeks (school will continue to liaise and support)
- provided by the child's hospital, for example if the child is undergoing chemotherapy and needs to remain in hospital (school will continue to liaise and support)

## **Key school staff**

-Your child's class teacher and Susie Betley (Deputy, SENDCo & Mental Health Lead) are your key contacts. Staff can be contacted via the school office, either by telephone, 01763 271235, or by email: [admin@layston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@layston.herts.sch.uk)

## **If the school makes the education arrangements**

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Please see the school's [Remote Learning Offer on the school website under Parents – Home Learning Zone.](#)

Initially the class teacher is responsible for planning and providing access to home learning, and if needed Susie Betley will support. The class teacher is also responsible for providing feedback on learning completed out of school.

Learning will be made available on the school website via the Home Learning Zone which takes parents to the year group's Google Drive where they and their child can access videos, resources and instructions. Paper copies of any work can also be requested from school and can be collected or delivered. School will support where possible with IT resources if needed. A child's home learning can be emailed to the class teacher for feedback or for younger children (YR and Y1) through sharing via Tapestry. The school will also endeavour to keep children in touch with their peers where appropriate via Google Meet.

Once school are alerted to the significant absence of a pupil, we will contact the parents to discuss the best way to support the family. When a child is ready to return to school we will liaise with the family about how best to manage this so that everyone feels safe and supported.

## **If the local authority makes arrangements**

### **ESMA**

The Education Support for Medical Absence (ESMA) support children and young people who are unable to attend school temporarily because of medical reasons. The teams work closely with the school to minimise the disruption to the child's education and to support their re-integration as soon as possible. As well as schools the teams work with parents, pupils and other professionals to ensure children and young people's education continues as normally as possible.

Contact information for education support for medical absence: [ISL Team contacts.](#)

### **Who is the service for?**

- ✓ pupils of statutory school age resident in Hertfordshire.
- ✓ pupils who have an anticipated absence from school for a significant period for medical reasons.
- ✓ pupils whose attendance has been impacted due to medical reasons
- ✓ pregnant school girls and young mothers from 29 weeks of pregnancy. (Pupils are encouraged to stay in school as long as possible before the birth of the baby. Support can be offered for up to 18 working weeks in total, if needed)
- ✓ post 16 pupils who were working with ESMA and whose education has been significantly disrupted due to medical reasons so require additional support in year 12 to complete a GCSE course.
- ✓ pupils reintegrating back into school following a period of absence due to medical reasons.

### **Eligibility criteria**

- ✓ school can make referrals via HSR or EHM to relevant team for consideration
- ✓ referrals must be accompanied by a letter from a medical practitioner, such as a Consultant Paediatrician or CAMHS.
- ✓ the evidence should specify the impact the medical condition has on the pupil's ability to access education in school
- ✓ the first 3 weeks of absence remains school's responsibility from in-house support procedures
- ✓ for prolonged support, current medical evidence is required and a treatment plan in place

## **Aims**

- ✓ to provide support and advice so schools are enabled to develop and embed skills/strategies to manage pupils with health needs.
- ✓ to ensure all children and young people with medical issues, impacting on attendance, have access to high quality provision that meets their needs.
- ✓ to work with families and relevant agencies to support children and young people to make good progress and achieve identified outcomes.
- ✓ to provide advice to governing bodies in respect of statutory responsibilities.
- ✓ to engage positively with parents and carers to develop learning strategies for while coping with medical issues
- ✓ to liaise with and signpost to other agencies for further support.

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

## **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Adele McMurrough, Head teacher, and Susie Betley, Deputy, SENDCo & MHLead. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## **Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- ✓ Accessibility Plan
- ✓ Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- ✓ SEND Policy
- ✓ Child Protection Policy
- ✓ PSHRE Policy
- ✓ Mental Health & Well-being Policy
- ✓ Assessment, Presentation and Marking Policy
- ✓ Remote Learning Policy