



Pontefract Region

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

PURPOSE

This policy sets out how the Pontefract Region of Ark Schools ensures that pupils who are unable to attend school due to illness or health needs continue to receive an appropriate education. The policy is based on the Education Act 1996 and clarifies the responsibilities of all schools within the Pontefract Region, and the local authority.

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Region:	Pontefract	Key Contact Name:	Lesley Irving

POSITIONING WITHIN ARK OPERATIONAL MODEL

Component	Element
☐ Strategic Leadership & Planning ☐ Monitoring, Reporting & Data ☐ Governance & Accountabilities ☐ Teaching & Learning ☐ Curriculum & Assessment ☒ Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing ☐ Pathways & Enrichment ☐ Parents & Community ☐ Finance, IT & Estates ☐ Our People	Behaviour model

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1. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It has been based on guidance given to us by our local authority. The local authority (LA) is responsible for arranging full time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other children because of illness or other reasons would not receive a suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a full-time education, the local authority is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to this guidance.

There will be circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs with the intervention of the local authority. We would not expect the local authority to become involved unless it had reason to think that the education being provided for 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.

2. The responsibility of the school

The school should provide education for up to 15 days. In a case of 15 or more days (cumulative or consecutive), the LA should provide education. They should liaise with the medical professionals to ensure a minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

3. If the school makes the arrangements

Initially the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend the School for a period of up to 15 days (cumulative or consecutive). This will be the responsibility of the School's Attendance Officer or the Education Welfare Officer. This can include sending work home, use of online provision, alternative provisions and partial timetables but this is not an exhaustive list. The Home to School Attendance Officer will consult with parents and children about these arrangements. Pupils will be brought back into the School after consultation with the relevant medical professionals and parents. This may be done on a partial timetable.

4. If the local authority makes arrangements

In a case of 15 or more days (cumulative or consecutive), the local authority should provide education. Information regarding this can be found in the statutory guidance for the local authority on children with health needs who cannot attend school.

5. In cases where the local authority makes arrangements

The School will work with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the child.

- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- Help to make sure that the provision offered to pupils 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 of the School.
 - Enable pupils to stay in touch with School life.
 - Create individually tailored reintegration packages.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

6. Monitoring arrangements

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Head of Pastoral and Inclusion (Pontefract Region).