



David Ross Education Trust

Broadening Horizons

# **Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy**







## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Trust is committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting, receive the same high standard of education. Trust staff aim to prevent any child unable to attend school due to health reasons from slipping behind their peers and to better reintegrate successfully back into school, if they so wish.
- 1.2. Where a child is unable to attend school because of health needs, each academy will work with its respective local authority and medical partners in ensuring the child continues to receive good quality education equivalent to that provided at the academy, as far as the child's health needs allow. This alternative provision will be suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude, any special educational needs they have, and be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status. The provision will include giving the child the opportunity to take appropriate qualifications.
- 1.3. The Trust is also committed to supporting the individual academic and pastoral needs of children unable to attend school due to ill health. Children will be involved in decisions from the start, in ways which reflect their age and maturity and encourage their commitment and engagement.

## 2. Policy Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to Trustees, Members, Governors and all adults supporting children at each academy within the Trust.
- 2.2. It is the responsibility of all individuals in the Trust to familiarise themselves with this policy and comply with its provisions.

## 3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

- 3.1. This Policy takes its legal framework from the following legislation and statutory guidance:
  - Education for children with health needs who can't attend school, last updated 2023.
  - Supporting pupils with medical needs at school, last updated 2017.
  - Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: DfE guidance for schools 2023.
  - Keeping Children Safe in Education, last updated 2024.
  - The Equality Act 2010.
  - The Public Sector Equality Duty 2010.
  - The Equality Act 2010 and schools, DfE guidance 2014.
  - The SEND Code of Practice, last updated 2020.
  - Working together to improve school attendance, last updated 2024.
  - Promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges, last updated 2024.

## 4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Trust** means all Academies within the David Ross Education Trust, as well as Head Office and central services operations.



## 4.2. Executive Leadership



day one. The academy will consider how they can enable children to successfully remain in touch with them whilst they are away.

- 5.2.3. Children with health needs should have full-time provision, where possible, which is equivalent to the education they would receive in a mainstream school. The law does not define full-time education but if, for example, a child receives one-to-one tuition, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the education they receive in this way may be more intensive. Where full-time education would not be in a child's best interests for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, local authorities must arrange part-time education on whatever basis
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5.3.3. The hospital school or education provider should inform, at the earliest possible opportunity, the local authority and the home school when the child is due to return home. When a child is discharged by the hospital, the academy will adhere to any medical advice about how much education will be appropriate after discharge. This might also include guidance on when the child might be ready to return to school and whether they should initially return to school on a part-time basis only.

#### 5.4. Returning to school

5.4.1. If a child returns home and is not well enough to return to the academy, the academy will work with the local authority, parent and medical practitioners in determining whether the child should be supported to be educated at home or whether alternative provision is more appropriate. Any alternative will be arranged as quick an mo pricrne8 ( 7( mo)3 (u)2.2 Td(b) ( t)0.4 (e)-3 (ll c

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8.2.

The senior member of staff is responsible for ensuring compliance with systems in place to monitor the welfare and attendance of pupils with health needs who cannot attend the academy, while they are learning at home, in h1 T4yre(l)- (e) (l)-3.3 (e)-6 ( t0 Td)oc2( le ( t0 Td)oc2( le ( t0e0.001 T.3 (e)7.9e)-3 (mr (