

Hutton CE Grammar School and Sixth Form

Supporting students with Health Needs who cannot attend school



Context

Hutton Church of England Grammar School and Sixth Form is a non-selective boys Grammar School aged from 11-18 with a mixed Sixth Form.

A number of students within the Main School and Sixth Form will, at some time in their school career, have a medical condition that impacts on their school life. This is usually a short-term problem which is either fully or substantially resolved. However, some students have long-term medical problems which may restrict their ability to attend school regularly and take part in normal school activities. At Hutton Grammar School and Sixth Form we endeavour to create a suitably supportive school environment for pupils with medical needs. As a Church school all we do is underpinned by Scripture, striving to ensure that everyone within our community is supported and encouraged to always make the most of their God-given talents, irrespective of their situation or starting point. This is best exemplified in Proverbs 27:23:

'Be sure you know the condition of your flocks; give careful attention to your herds.'

In keeping with the school's Attendance Policy it is the aim of Hutton Grammar School and Sixth Form to encourage and maintain at least 'Good' attendance for all students, irrespective of their individual and specific needs. The school recognises, however, that there may be occasions, outside of the control of the student and their parents/carers which means that they have to be absent from school for a longer period of time.

Students who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs will include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illness
- Chronic illnesses

Support and Curriculum Access

In all situations the school will continue to support and provide a suitable education for students with health needs whenever possible. This support can take a number of forms:

- Providing access to appropriate school resources
- Negotiating appropriate timetable amendments and adaptations, including where appropriate, the implementation of reduced curriculum allocation
- Working in tandem with all related services including:
 - Local Authority SEND services
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
 - Local authority Attendance Improvement services
 - Educational psychologists
 - School nurse
 - Relevant medical professionals

School will always endeavour to ensure that any decision regarding appropriate and suitable education provision is made in direct consultation with parents/carers and the student in question. Further to this school will also ensure that any student absent for a prolonged period of time will be kept informed of all school events and information through parental newsletters and all other appropriate communications which would have been made should the student have not been absent.

The school's Deputy Head teacher will act as direct point of contact with parents/carers and appropriate external agencies regarding any student who cannot attend school due to health needs, however in consultation with parents/carers this responsibility may be transferred to another, named, member of staff.

Once a student has been absent from school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence due to specified health issues or over the course of a school year with a recurring specified health issue it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to provide suitable education, where it is otherwise not being provided. In these situations the school will work closely with all appropriate stakeholders to provide an appropriate level of education; normally this would include attendance at school for agreed periods and/or lessons. When this is not possible due to the student being unable to the school will liaise with the LA and parents/carers to investigate alternatives.

The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, LAs should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.

Reintegration

When reintegration into school is proposed or anticipated the school will liaise with all relevant stakeholders to put in place an appropriate plan to ensure that reintegration is both stepped as appropriate and successful in maintaining longer term achievement and progress. This will include:

- Liaison with parents/carers and the student in question
- Liaison with appropriate medical professionals
- Consideration of any reasonable adjustments which may need to be made
- Access to appropriate resources enabling the student to 'keep pace' with those in school
- Incremental increase in curriculum access, as appropriate
- Modified or reduced timetable, as appropriate
- Staff training and/or awareness raising regarding supporting any identified needs

Public Examinations

In liaison with all appropriate stakeholders the school will ensure that special consideration is submitted to awarding bodies as soon as possible. It will also ensure that, where practical, specific arrangements will be made to ensure that any student who cannot normally attend due to health needs is able to sit any external examination in the appropriate conditions.

Where it is clear that a student will be unable to attend school premises in order to sit public examinations school will liaise with all appropriate stakeholders in order to support the sitting and administration of the examination(s).

Attendance

The school will monitor attendance for individual students and mark registers to indicate that they receiving education otherwise than at school. Students will not be removed from registers unless medical evidence states that they will be unable to attend for the rest of their compulsory schooling,

All information should be read in conjunction with, and reference to, DfE publication 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (Statutory guidance for local authorities) January 2013

and

Lancashire County Council Guidance 'Hospital or home teaching if your child is ill'

Next Review	Curriculum & General Purposes Committee	Summer 2025. Last reviewed Autumn 2024, awaiting LA Section 19 guidance
--------------------	---	--