

Langley Grammar School



Children with health needs who cannot attend school *November 2023*

1. Background

Senior leaders and Governors of Langley Grammar School are aware of their responsibility for children and young people on the school roll who have health needs which prevent them coming into school for a period of time. We have put arrangements in place to minimise, as far as is possible, the disruption to their schooling by continuing to provide education as normally as their incapacity allows.

2. Responsibilities

The **Governing Board** is legally responsible under section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to make arrangements to support students with medical conditions. They ensure that policies, plans and procedures to support children with medical conditions are properly and effectively implemented. This includes children who, by reason of illness may not for any period be in school to receive suitable education.

In line with section 19 of the Education Act 1996, the **Local Authority** has a duty to ensure that arrangements are in place for the provision of suitable education for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them. This applies to children and young people:

- Who are of statutory school age.
- Who are not in school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, due to ill health.
- Where the health need and necessity for absence have been validated as necessary by a medical doctor or other appropriately qualified consultant.
- Who will not receive a suitable full-time education unless alternative arrangements are made for this by the school and the LA, working with other agencies such as the health professionals, social services, hospital school service etc.

It is the responsibility of **the school** to work with partners to ensure that the provision for a child unable to attend school because of illness or injury will start as quickly as possible. Once assured that provision is in place, the LA will only intervene if it has reason to think that the educational provision being made is unsuitable or insufficient.

The **designated member of staff** with overall responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy is **Ashley Johnson, Deputy Headteacher**. He is responsible for ensuring that:

- sufficient staff are trained and competent to provide support to students in school who have medical conditions,
- robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, both on and off site,
- there is appropriate liaison with the relevant local authority (LA) and other partners to ensure that students who are unable to come to school because of illness or injury receive suitable education.

3. Provision for children who cannot attend school because of illness

The education students who are unable to come to school because of illness or injury may be provided in a variety of ways as appropriate to the individual circumstances, including:

- Part-time attendance at school supplemented by additional work to be done at home.
- Virtual attendance in lessons through MS Teams.
- School to home liaison, using digital media, virtual classrooms or homework.
- A hospital school if the child has to spend periods of time in hospital.
- Attendance at an AP (Alternative Provision) centre or medical PRU (Pupil Referral Unit.)
- Home tuition.

There is no statutory requirement to draw up an **individual healthcare plan (IHP)** for every student who has a medical condition. There are circumstances, usually in the case of a temporary or mild condition, where a plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. However, in line with the school's policy on *Supporting Students with Medical Needs*, the school, parents and healthcare professionals will agree, based on evidence, when an IHP would be appropriate in order to ensure a student's medical condition is effectively managed. Short or longer term IHPs for students who are unable to come into school because of their medical needs will be drawn up in liaison with other agencies involved.

The provision of **temporary transport** to and from school for a student on medical grounds may enable a student to attend school who would not otherwise be able to do so, even if this can only be part-time. Where parents are unable to provide appropriate transport, the school will process requests for transport on medical grounds through the Local Authority.

The student's case will be reviewed every four to six weeks to see whether their situation has altered in any way, whether a continuation of the current arrangements is necessary or whether a process of re-integration can be started.

4. Reintegration into school

Returning to school after a period of illness or injury can be an emotional hurdle for students. The following arrangements may typically be put in place to support students' successful reintegration into full time attendance.

- While the student is away from school, their peers are encouraged to keep in touch via appropriate social media, through cards and letters and to visit where appropriate.
- The form tutor will also keep in touch with the student and their parents and keep them informed of school events.
- The student would be invited to attend special school events wherever possible.
- The student, their parents and key staff will be consulted about concerns, medical issues and the timing of return.
- A named member of staff will have responsibility for the student's reintegration plan.
- Where possible, the student will be encouraged to come into school part-time during the period of ill health, as a helpful step to full re-integration.
- When the student is back in school, a personalised or modified timetable will be provided if appropriate. Lessons may be moved to more accessible rooms, and places in school where the student can rest if needed will be identified.
- Students with medical conditions are generally entitled to variations with regard to the sitting of public examinations. Where necessary, this will be discussed with the examinations officer and appropriate access arrangements put in place. For example, students may be given rest breaks, or separate invigilation.

7. Policy evaluation and review

The implementation and impact of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Governors' Students, Staff and Community Committee.

The policy is based on a model from CEFM and will be reviewed every two years or when there is any change in guidance.

Policy approval

This policy has been reviewed and approved in line with the LGS Policy framework agreed by the Governing Board in July 2023.

Reviewed by Staff, Student & Community Committee **November 2023**

Approved by Governing Board: **December 2023**

Review date: **November 2025**