

## Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Birchwood Community Academy Trust

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Policy owner (Job Title):	Associate Deputy Head Teacher
Governing body oversight:	FGB
Date of review:	May 2022
Date of next review:	May 2023

### 1. Aims

Birchwood Community High School fulfils its statutory obligation to ensure that suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.

Students, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Birchwood Community High School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, Students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Where a student is not attending due to ill health, it is important that they feel supported in their learning. It is also important that each student's situation is assessed on an individual basis and that the student's needs are met accordingly.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'

### 3. If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Head Teacher, Pastoral Manager and SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be arranged with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include sending work home, accessing work through Microsoft Teams, attending a hospital school or a Teaching Assistant may attend the home to deliver lessons, work will be prepared by class teachers. The student will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the student may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

#### **4. If Warrington Local Authority Makes the Arrangements**

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the LA will become responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The school will make a referral to the Local Authority's Student Support Co-ordinator. This service should accept and act on their following criteria:

- Medical needs are such that the young person has missed 15 days of schooling (consecutive or cumulative).
- The young person's health has significantly reduced their ability to access their home school full time and this is reflected in their attendance record.
- A senior medical professional (such as a consultant, mental health practitioner etc) is providing support, diagnosis and/or advice. Please Note: GP referral is not sufficient.
- A change in medical advice or medication has meant that a young person requires increased medical review, intervention, support or flexibility to allow them to attend education full time.
- Health need can mean either physical health need, or mental health condition meaning it is disrupting the young person's ability to attend school full time
- A young person has been discharged from tier 4 Mental Health Service services and requires on-going support before full time reintegration to school.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, Birchwood Community High School will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- Liaise with the alternative provider over planning examinations and examination course requirements where appropriate. (Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as soon as possible.
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, Birchwood Community High School will work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the student 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.

#### **5. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually for Engagement, Ethos and Values. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

#### **6. Links to other policies This policy works alongside the following school policies:**

- SEND Policy
- Alternative Provision Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Student Attendance Policy