



# Lantern ACADEMY

'Where every child shines.'

## Children with Medical Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy 24/25

### Policy Review

This policy will be shared with the Governing Body on an annual basis.

It was written in January 2025 and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The policy was shared with the Governing Body in January 2025

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Aims.....	2
3. Legislation and guidance.....	2
4. The responsibilities of the Academy.....	3
5. Monitoring arrangements.....	8
6. Links to other policies.....	8

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

All children, regardless of their circumstances receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Alternative provision offers good quality education, on a par to that provided through mainstream schooling, coupled with the support that individual children need to overcome barriers to attainment. This support meets a child’s individual needs, including social and emotional needs and enables them to thrive and prosper in the education system.

In line with statutory guidance from the DfE, local authorities must arrange for suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child’s needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health. This duty applies to all children and young people who would normally attend mainstream schools, including Academies, Free schools, independent schools and special schools, or where a child is not on the roll of a school. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the Local Authority is responsible for arranging provision.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority – for example, where the child can still attend school with some support; where the Academy has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school. In such cases the Local Authority would not become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to 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. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.

### 2. AIMS

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Children, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

### **3. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

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

### **4. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL**

There are a very limited number of reasons why a school might consider alternative provision pathways and / or the use of a modified timetable. Where this is related to health issues it is supported by medical evidence. The Child will:

- a) Have medical needs other than mental health needs
- b) Have mental health needs and access the Bee U service (CAMHS) either as an in-patient or through services provided in the community.

The Academy has a responsibility to monitor and evaluate the achievement of all children on our roll. Children who are not in school full-time are provided with sufficient and appropriately differentiated work to do for those hours they are not in Academy, in line with their individual needs and capabilities. Arrangements are in place to ensure that the work is regularly marked; assessed and constructive feedback is given to the pupil.

Children at the academy with medical conditions are supported so that they have full access to education, including academy visits and physical education. The governing body ensures that arrangements are in place in the academy to support children with medical needs. In addition, the governing body ensures that academy leaders consult health and social care professionals, children and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively met.

Some children with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case, the governing body must comply with its duties under that Act. Some children may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision. For children with SEND this guidance should be read in conjunction with the Special Needs and Disability Code of Practice.

When considering arrangements, other than full-time school, for children with medical conditions it is important to:

- Indicate specific support for the children children's educational, social and emotional needs.
- Ensure that a child with a medical condition is supported in enabling full participation as possible in all aspects of the academy.

- Demonstrate that a reduced timetable is appropriately supported with advice/evidence from a clinician such as a consultant, BeeU (CAMHS) representative or G.P.
- Note that children with medical conditions should have access to as full an education as possible given their individual circumstances.
- Notify the Local Authority of all children who are not attending the Academy for more than 15 days, this will include those who are in hospital.

#### **4.1 If the Academy Makes Arrangements**

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

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Working with the governing body to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting children with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents/carers and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet children's health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for children with healthcare needs and liaises with parents/carers, children, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the child's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual children.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting children with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support children with health needs with suitable information relating to a child's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Providing reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of children.
- Notifying the Local Authority when a child is likely to be away from the academy for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

SENDCO will work with the named member of staff to be responsible for:

- Dealing with children who are unable to attend the academy because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into the academy.
- Supplying children's education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, education providers and parents/carers to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from the academy.
- Keeping children informed about academy events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Providing a link between children and their parents/carers, and the Local Authority.

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of a child's health needs.

- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring children are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting children with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their children through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual child's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
- Keeping parents/carers informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the academy.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the academy where possible.
- Work in partnership with the academy to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the academy of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the academy with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child will be planned.

#### **4.1a Absence Management**

- Parents/carers are advised to contact the academy on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
- Absences due to illness are authorised unless the academy has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- The academy provides support to children who are absent from the academy because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the child's parents/carers to arrange schoolwork as soon as the child is able to cope with it or part-time education at the academy. The academy give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the child, their family and relevant members of staff.
- The academy monitors children's attendance and marks registers to ensure it is clear whether a child is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at the academy.
- The academy only removes a child who is unable to attend the academy because of additional health needs from the school roll where:
  - The child has been certified by a Medical Officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend the academy, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age; and
  - Neither the child nor their parent/carer has indicated to the academy the intention to continue to attend the academy, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- A child unable to attend the academy because of their health needs will not be removed from the academy register without parental/carer consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the Local Authority has become responsible for the child's education.

#### **4.1b Support for children**

- Where a child has a complex or long-term health issue, the academy discusses the child's needs and how these may be best met with the Local Authority, relevant medical professionals, parents/carers and, where appropriate, the child.
- The Local Authority expects the academy to support children with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the academy to make reasonable adjustments to the child's programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- The academy makes reasonable adjustments under the child's individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Children admitted to hospital receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the academy works with the provider of the child's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- Whilst a child is away from the academy, the academy works with the Local Authority to ensure the child can successfully remain in touch with their academy using the following methods:
  - Academy newsletters
  - Emails
  - Invitations to academy events
- Appropriate contact from peers and staff
- Remote Learning, where possible
- Where appropriate, the academy will provide the child's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- To help ensure a child with additional health needs is able to attend the academy following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations are considered:
  - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member
  - Access to additional support in the academy
  - Online access to the curriculum from home
  - Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms
  - Places to rest at the academy
  - Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

#### **4.1c Reintegration**

- When a child is considered well enough to return to the academy, the academy develops a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the Local Authority.
- The academy works with the Local Authority when reintegration into the academy is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the academy.
- As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in the academy.
- If appropriate, health professionals (such as the school nurse) are involved in the development of the child's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the child.
- The academy will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the academy and the curriculum for the child.

- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the child's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill child or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- The academy is aware that some children will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the child, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.
- The reintegration plan will include:
  - The date for planned reintegration, once known.
  - Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
  - Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the child.
  - Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.
  - Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.
  - A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.
  - Follow up procedures.
- The academy will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage children and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.
- Following reintegration, the academy will support the Local Authority in seeking feedback from the child regarding the effectiveness of the process.

## 4.2 If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If the academy can't make suitable arrangements, Telford and Wrekin will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the named person with responsibility for children with health needs notifies the Local Authority, who will take responsibility for the child and their education.
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the academy liaises with the Local Authority to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the child's absence.
- For hospital admissions, the appointed named member of staff liaises with the Local Authority regarding the programme that will be followed while the child is in hospital.
- The Local Authority will set up a personal education plan (PEP) for the child which will allow the academy, the Local Authority and the provider of the child's education to work together.
- The Local Authority will ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance *Alternative Provision* (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into the academy as soon as possible.
- The Local Authority will address the needs of individual children in arranging provision, without limiting the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right

level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives breach statutory requirements.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the academy will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into the academy successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
  - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the academy, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in the academy as far as possible
  - Enable the child to stay in touch with academy life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to academy events or internet links to lessons from their academy)
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to the academy
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

## **5. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

This policy is reviewed annually by the SEND governor. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## **6. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Attendance Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Children on a Modified Timetable Policy