



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

## **September 2021**

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3 - Best interests of the child

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children

## **Version Control**

Version	Date	Notes / changes made	Updated and reviewed by
1	September 2021  March 2022	Original Policy	R Enwonwu – Policy Created Reviewed by J De Saulles & J Robinson Approved at FGB on 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **1. Aims**

This policy aims to ensure that:

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

### **2. Legislation and guidance**

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, found here <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/general-info/tuition>

### **3. The responsibilities of Howard Primary School**

For some pupils, their health condition will require them to have an extended period of time out of school. Howard Primary School's Leadership Team will do all that it can to ensure that such children are supported through their period of absence from school and sensitively re-integrated once they are well enough to attend.

Our school's co-ordinator for children with medical needs will take an active and continuing role in their educational, social and emotional progress. Howard Primary School will at all times aim to work in partnership with parents to ensure the best possible outcomes and a return to school as soon as possible.

Where a child's health condition requires an extended period of absence from school, the school may need to seek the assistance of the Springboard Service. Staff at the service, including hospital tutors, will support pupils who are temporarily unable to attend classes on a full-time basis. These pupils may be:

- (a) Children who have been deemed by a medical practitioner as being too ill to attend school for more than 15 days or who have conditions which lead to recurrent absences from school which becomes significant in the longer term.
- (b) Pupils with mental health problems who are unable to attend school.

Some children with medical conditions may have a disability. Where this is the case the governing body will comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

The aim of Springboard will be to support the school in its work to reintegrate pupils into full time education at the earliest possible opportunity. In the greatest number of cases this means a return to mainstream education

Staff at Howard Primary School will continue to maintain a contact with a pupil who is unwell and not attending and will contribute to their academic and reintegration plans in order that they may enjoy a continuous level of education and support from the school during their period of absence.

This may include providing to Springboard relevant information about the child, helping to maintain contact with parents, assisting with and guiding the work of the child, supporting the process of achieving public examinations or taking part in National Curriculum tests and providing emotional support at the level of teacher and peer involvement. The school will do all that it can to maintain links with appropriate agencies including Springboard, the Educational Welfare Service, and the Educational Psychology Service. Reintegration back into school will be properly supported so that children with medical conditions fully engage with learning and do not fall behind when they are unable to attend.

Finally, Howard Primary School will do all that it can to fully implement Croydon's policy on the education of children and young people with medical needs.

#### **4. Equality**

At Howard Primary School, our Core Values of Care, Commitment, Courtesy, Co-operation and Consideration, are the ways in which we create the unity and cohesion across our whole school community.

Our school community is united in our conviction that all forms of discrimination, including racism, have no place within our community and in society as a whole. We all have a responsibility to stand up and speak out when we see something we know is wrong. Such ant-discriminatory practices and behaviours need to be firmly ingrained in our everyday lives.

At Howard Primary School, we will always teach our pupils about equality and this remains an integral part of our curriculum. We ensure that we always celebrate diversity, promote equality, demonstrate respect and stand together to challenge all forms of discriminatory language and behaviour.

We understand that education is a powerful instrument in building an informed, accepting and peaceful society and use our curriculum to tackle issues of racism and inequality. We regularly review our curriculum and policies to ensure that, in all aspects of school life, we uphold, reflect and practice the values of inclusivity, diversity and equality.

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

This policy will be reviewed annually and, as it is a statutory policy, approved by the full governing board.

#### **6. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Children with Medical Conditions and First Aid Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equalities Policy

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_