



**Green Lea First School**

**Children with Health Needs Who  
Cannot Attend School Policy**

Reviewed: June 2025

To be reviewed again: June 2026

## **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 and the statutory guidance document Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school (2013)

## **3. The responsibilities of the school**

Green Lea First School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home.

We will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013.

This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- The School recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.

- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.
- Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child if appropriate.
- Medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage.
- Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.
- Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

### **Reintegration into the School**

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, attendance officers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary.

The impact on staff will be considered and additional support may be required from the Special Educational Needs devolved budget or via review and referral to the Special Educational Needs panel.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail.

The School will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The Headteacher will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

#### **4. Monitoring Arrangements**

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

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- First Aid Policy