



## Tudor Grange Academies Trust

### **Robert Smyth Academy Children who cannot attend school due to medical needs policy**

<b>Document title</b>	Children who cannot attend school due to medical needs policy
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### **1 Aims**

- 1.1 This policy sets out our approach to children with health needs who cannot attend school across Tudor Grange Academies Trust. It 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**

- 2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).
- 2.2 It is also based on guidance provided by the local authorities where our academies are located. Their guidance can be found in section 3.
- 2.3 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### **3 Responsibilities of the school**

- 3.1 DfE statutory guidance makes it clear that: The majority of pupils who experience medical needs are best provided for in their home school, with appropriate adjustments. Where the medical needs are so significant that education off-site is required for a period, this should be for the shortest appropriate time to prevent pupils losing their links with friends and to reduce the impact on attainment and progress.
- 3.2 The school will meet with families and external agencies to ascertain the best course of action.
- 3.3 Medical evidence will need to be provided from health care professionals and this must be updated to reflect any changes in health needs of the pupils

### **4 If the school makes arrangements**

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

- 4.2 In our academy, the College Leader will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.
- 4.3 In the short term, where a pupil is deemed well enough to undertake some learning at home by a medical professional, the school will set work that is most appropriate to the individual child's circumstances. This may be:
- work sent home, or practical items
  - electronic based tasks and remote learning: resources to facilitate education will be provided by the school.
- 4.4 At all points, the pupil and parents/carers will be engaged in discussion about what is best for their education. Consulting with parents and remaining current with information about the pupil's wellbeing is a key part of the process and the academy should seek regular updates.
- 4.5 The reintegration process will be done as an individualised plan taking into account the needs of the child. This may take the form of sending a staff member to their house to support a transition process back into school. Visits and gradually increasing contact might be necessary for some pupils in this position and in these circumstances a part-time timetable will be agreed and regularly reviewed. The focus will always be on a successful transition back to full-time education.
- 4.6 Where the absence is likely to be lengthy, the reintegration plan may only take shape nearer to the likely date of return, to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill child in the early stages of their absence. While most children will want to return to their previous school routine at once, some will need gradual reintegration over a longer period.
- 4.7 Awarding bodies will make special arrangements for children with permanent or long term disabilities or learning difficulties, and with temporary disabilities, illness and indispositions, when they are taking public examinations. The LA and the school will work together to submit applications for special arrangements to awarding bodies as early as possible.

## **5 If the local authority makes arrangements**

- 5.1 If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Leicestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.
- 5.2 Suitable education may be different depending on the individual and their health concern. What is considered suitable will be discussed with parents and members of staff that know the pupil well.
- 5.3 The amount of days that will trigger local authority involvement will vary due to the nature of illness or health concern. As a rule, any absence over 15 school days should be reviewed and considered for a local authority referral and advice sought.
- 5.3.1 Schools in Leicestershire should contact the inclusion service here:  
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/inclusion-service/get-advice-or-make-a-referral-to-the-inclusion-service>
- 5.4 In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school and trust will:
- 5.4.1 Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil;
- 5.4.2 Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- 5.4.3 Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully;
- 5.4.4 When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible;
- Enable the pupil 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 and/or part-time timetables for each child returning to school; and
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

## **6 Links to other policies**

6.1 This policy links to the following policies:

- Academy accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy