

Policy for Children with health needs who cannot attend college

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College



Approved by: Governing
Body

Date: January 2021

Last reviewed on: March
2020

Next review due by:
January 2022

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- › Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend college due to health needs
- › Students, staff and parents understand what the college 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 Worcestershire Children First.

3. The responsibilities of the college

3.1 If the college makes arrangements

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

If the student is in KS3 Miss Mason will oversee provision and Mrs Corbin will do the same for students in KS4. They will decide which member of staff will be the point of contact here in the college. If there is a safeguarding concern then Miss Mason will be involved regardless of the Keystage the student is in.

Arrangements which the college could make include

- Sending work home
- Making a MET referral
- Liaising with hospital colleges and other agencies such as CAMHS, Early Help and Social Care
- Agreeing a time limited reduced timetable, following the college's agreed protocols.

In the first instance parents will be invited in to meet key staff and an Individual Health Care Plan drawn up in accordance with the college's "Supporting students with medical conditions policy". Where possible the student will be involved in this process. At this meeting a plan for reintegration back into college will be discussed with agreed review times.

Issues around ensuring the child is being safeguarded will be discussed at this meeting. Parents are advised to contact the college on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.

- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the college has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- The college will provide support to students who are absent from college because of illness for a period of less than 15 college days by liaising with the student's parents to arrange school work as soon as the student is able to cope with it or part-time education at college. The college will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the student, their family and relevant members of staff.
- For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more college days, either in one absence or over the course of a college year, the college will notify the LA, who will take responsibility for the student and their education.
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the college will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the student's absence.
- For hospital admissions, the appointed named member of staff will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the student is in hospital.

- The college will monitor student attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a student is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at college.
- The college will only remove a student who is unable to attend college because of additional health needs from the college roll where: The student has been certified by a Medical Officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend college, before ceasing to be of compulsory college age; and neither the student nor their parent has indicated to the college the intention to continue to attend the college, after ceasing to be of compulsory college age.
- A student unable to attend college because of their health needs will not be removed from the college register without parental consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the student's education

Alternative Provision

In order to ensure children access their entitlement to full time education, sometimes it is helpful or necessary to make alternative provision for the child. Alternative provision often allows for a more bespoke and flexible approach to education. This can work well for children whose medical difficulties mean for example that their energy levels fluctuate and therefore full time attendance within a busy college environment is very challenging.

Alternative provision can be defined as education for students who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education (DfE, 2013). Alternative provision for children with medical difficulties can be arranged by the college or by the Local Authority. In cases where the child's medical difficulties are likely to be short term (typically less than 15 days) or result in only small amounts of college being missed, it is often simpler for the college to make these arrangements. In cases where the child is not able to attend college for long periods it may be more appropriate for the Local Authority to make arrangements through the Medical Education Team.

Medical Education Team

In Worcestershire the statutory duties for children unable to attend the college because of medical difficulties are discharged by the Medical Education Team. The Medical Education Team ensure that arrangements are in place for children and young people who are unable to attend college because of their medical needs so that they have appropriate and ongoing access to education. The Team consists of qualified teachers and teaching assistants who are skilled in teaching children /young people of statutory school age with a wide range of physical, emotional and psychological health needs.

The Medical Education Team service level agreement and referral form can be found on the Babcock Prime website: <https://www.babcockprime.co.uk/disadvantaged-and-vulnerable-learners/medical-education>

Where it is not appropriate or possible for the needs of children with medical difficulties to be met by the Medical Education Team and the college has not made alternative arrangements, Worcestershire Children First will work with colleges and families to agree provision. The college will alert Worcestershire Children First when there is evidence to suggest that a child is unable to attend college and alternative provision is not yet in place to ensure they access full time education.

Contact should be made with the Local Authority as a matter of upmost priority to ensure there is no delay in provision being made for the child. In these cases the college will contact:

Katie Clegg, Senior Education Advisor for Vulnerable Learners

kclegg1@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Escalating welfare concerns

If an assessment has been undertaken and there are needs that cannot be met by the early help arrangements in college then a referral to Level 2 or 3 services may be appropriate. Worcestershire's Levels of Need Guidance (2019) describes the indicators which may suggest that a child is in need of additional or targeted support from services providing intervention at these levels.

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/7962/levels_of_need_guidance_formerly_threshold_guidance

As with all children if there is a risk of significant harm to a child with medical difficulties, an immediate referral should be made to the Family Front Door

9.00am-5.00pm – Monday to Thursday

9.00am-4.30pm – Friday

01905 822666

Out of hours or at weekends: 01905 768020

Fabricated and/or induced illness

In a very small number of cases there may be concerns that a child's medical difficulties may be fabricated or induced.

Parents/carers may fabricate or induce illness in a number of ways:

- Fabrication of signs and symptoms. This may include fabrication of past medical history
- Fabrication of signs and symptoms and falsification of hospital charts and records, and specimens of bodily fluids, including falsification of letters and documents
- Induction of illness by a variety of means

As with any other form of abuse, where colleges are concerned that a child may be experiencing or be at risk of harm, advice should be sought from the Family Front Door. In cases where Fabricated and/or induced illness is a consideration, evidence of medical difficulties such as medical appointment letters and multiagency working as part of the child's IHP will be key.

Further advice regarding this area of safeguarding is available as a supplement to Working Together to Safeguard Children:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/27734/Safeguarding_Children_in_whom_illness_is_fabricated_or_induced.pdf

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the college can't make suitable arrangements Worcestershire Children First will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the college 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
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into college successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the college, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in college as far as possible
 - Enable the student to stay in touch with college life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to college events or internet links to lessons from their college)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to college
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers with responsibility for personal development. 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
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- Alternative Provision Policy
- Reduced timetable protocol
- Attendance Policy