



## **Supporting Children Who Have Health Needs Policy**

**Completed by: Yvonne Heywood**

**Submission to Trustees : May 2022**

**Formal ratification by Trustees : May 2022**

**Review : Summer 2024**

### ***Policy Development & Consultation***

Ladywood staff have contributed to the development of this policy during staff and curriculum meetings, and have been consulted throughout the process.

### ***Background Information about the School***

Ladywood is a mixed school for pupils aged 4 - 11 years, who have complex learning difficulties. Our pupils come from a large, and very mixed area, and the majority of pupils are transported to school by the local authority. At Ladywood we aim to provide all our children with a broad and relevant education. We do this in a positive environment that reflects our commitment to high expectations for all.

### ***Philosophy***

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

Ladywood School aims to support the LA and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive

suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

### **Legislation and guidance**

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## **Ladywood School Guidance**

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

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. SLT will initiate a meeting will be made with parents / carers and the class team to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents/carers. Participation in this activity enables the child to be marked as B, educated offsite. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. This may include:

- Packs and resources sent home
- Working from home boxes provided for families
- Home visits
- Zoom meetings
- Phone calls home
- Regular communication via Class Dojo

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

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

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bolton Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil. Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil;
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- 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.

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 for each child returning to school;
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

### **Monitoring arrangements**

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

### **Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy

### ***Ethnicity & Equal Opportunities***

Our policy is designed to be culturally appropriate and inclusive of all children. We will aim to avoid any form of racism, sexism and stereotyping.

### ***Community Links***

The emphasis is upon learning within the home, school and community. Pupils will be given the opportunity to transfer knowledge, skills, attitudes and concepts that they have learnt to other situations. Some pupils are offered time learning in other settings, e.g. mainstream schools, museums, nurseries. Social inclusion is encouraged wherever possible. Opportunities are created for the pupils to develop awareness of other cultures.

### ***Partnership with Parents***

Ladywood School values the input of parents and regards the partnership between home and school very highly. We consider the quality of this

relationship as an integral part in supporting the children to reach their full potential.

### **Monitoring the Policy**

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation, and that this policy and its related procedures and strategies are implemented.

### **Dissemination of the Policy**

Head Teacher, Trustees, all staff members and health professionals will receive a copy of this policy. Copies are available in school for parents on request.