



# **THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL**

## **2021**

*Rodmarton Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share the same commitment. All staff and volunteers are subject to an enhanced DBS check.*

*Please refer to the school's Child Protection Policy for more information.  
We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.'*

Agreed date: February 2021

Children with Medical Needs Not Attending School Policy February 2021  
Review: Spring 2022

**Next review: Spring Term 2022**

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

Rodmarton School 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.

It comes under the category of 'education otherwise' which means that the child remains on the school roll but is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

### **Key Principles**

We recognise that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and that we have 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.

An Individual Healthcare Plan will be developed for the pupil in consultation with other support agencies, in particular, health providers.

### **Responsibilities**

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. This may be provided through the school's resources or via the Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES).

Referral to the GHES can be made through the GCC website:  
[www.goucestershire.gov.uk/ghes](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/ghes)

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence.

Other agencies may be involved, such as CYPS. If so, a My Plan + document will be required.

Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- planning

- appropriate resources.
- information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, any test results and special educational needs.

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, Rodmarton School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

The school will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at the school and the staff providing the education otherwise.

### **Reintegration into the School**

The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and carefully managed 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 arrangements 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 taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEN devolved budget or via review and referral to Gloucestershire SEN 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.

Both the school and the education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

### **References**

Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs, DfES 0025/2002  
Children and Families Act (2014)

Equality Act (2010)

Gloucestershire Local Authority Guidance for Schools: Supporting Children with Medical Needs Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES)

Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE December 2015) The Education of Children with Medical Needs, Ofsted HMI 1713, pub. 2003

### **Links to other policies**

- Policy on the Education of Children with Medical Needs
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality Policy