

## **Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs**

### **Summary**

This policy outlines how the local authority (LA), Barnsley schools, academies, parents, and carers can best support children who are finding it difficult to attend school because of health needs. This policy links to statutory guidance from the Department for Education and Section 19 of the Education Act, 1996 and outlines the local authority responsibilities for carrying out their duty to arrange suitable education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

### **Legal Framework**

s.19(1) of The Education Act states, that local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable and (normally) full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of exclusion, illness, or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This duty is referred to as 'the s.19 duty' throughout this policy.

### **Responsible services**

The following LA services will work together in partnership with schools' parents and the child to ensure that this policy is fully implemented.

- Education Inclusion Services
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education Welfare Service
- Educational psychologists
- 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS)

### **Responsible Officers**

The LA has two named officers that are responsible for ensuring that the children receive a suitable education when they are unable to attend due to health needs these officers are Bev Bradley, SEND Improvement Manager and Jane Allen Service Manager, Education Welfare and Pupil Inclusion, they can be contacted at the following email addresses [bevbradley@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:bevbradley@barnsley.gov.uk) and [janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:janeallen@barnsley.gov.uk)

### **When children can remain in school**

Where possible, schools should continue to provide education to children with health needs when a child is already attending school. There are a range of circumstances where a child's health needs can and should be managed by the school so that they can continue to be educated in school without the need for the intervention of the local authority. Home schools should provide support to children who are absent because of illness for a short period, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza. The 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions' guidance

outlines the expectations for schools in this respect. Schools also need to be aware of their responsibilities when mental health issues are impacting on a child's attendance. The local authority does not need to become involved in such arrangements unless it has reason to believe that the education being provided by the school is unsuitable.

The home school has a duty (regulation 12(1)(a) of the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 to provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly (including due to their health needs). In Barnsley the Education Welfare Service, provides schools with a link Education Welfare Officer (EWO). The school should ensure that any children not attending are discussed with their link EWO on at least a termly basis. The Education Welfare service have also produced guidance in relation to managing attendance and ensuring that all pupils are able to access their education, this guidance can be found [here](#)

The LA expects schools to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all young people can access their education in their community school when illness or medical conditions are a contributing factor to absence. 0-19 Public Health Nursing school nursing teams will work closely with schools on request to ensure that any unmet or long -term health needs are being supported to maximise school attendance and where appropriate can support the school with their creating of a care plan for the child to ensure that regular attendance can be maintained.

## **Working Together**

Parents and carers understand the needs of their child and have an important role to play they will be asked to provide necessary information about their child and their needs. Parents and carers will always be consulted before new provision begins. We also want our children and young people to be involved to support commitment and engagement in education. Through effective collaboration between relevant services (LA, CAMHS, NHS, home schools, 0-19 PHNS,) we aim to deliver effective education for children with additional physical or mental health needs. Multi-agency assessments such as the Early Help Assessment (EHA) and the Team Around the Family (TAF) will support the process of sharing information and enabling the right support at the right time. When a child is in hospital, liaison between hospital teaching staff, the local authority, alternative provision or home tuition service, and the child's school (if they have one) can ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum. Such collaboration will enable the child's home school to make information available about the curriculum and work the child may miss, helping the child to keep up and in touch and enable a positive transition back to school when appropriate.

## **Barnsley Education Support Service (BESS)**

The Education Support Service in Barnsley will provide education where a child or young person is not able to attend their school for health or other reasons.

Education support may be agreed in these circumstances to facilitate a child or young person's return to their school or other educational provision. It is essential that the local authority work flexibly and in partnership with the child or young person, their parents or carers and other partners and agencies to plan the provision and agree the exit strategy and timeline.

The child or young person remains the responsibility of the school where they are on roll.

### **Who can access BESS**

Any child or young person of school age, who is not able to attend their school for health or other reasons, can be referred into the service.

### **The BESS service**

BESS work together with the child or young person, school, and parents/carers to further understand the barriers faced by the child or young person. Where a mental health issue is affecting attendance, the team will meet with school, parents/carers, and other services. BESS will look at what support is required and how services can work together to ensure a return to education and regular attendance.

Once a decision has been made to provide education support, BESS will provide suitable education for a minimum of five hours per week for a six-to-eight-week period. This tuition will be delivered within the child or young person's school or local community space.

BESS has a team of teachers and tutors who will build a meaningful relationship with the child/young person and support their transition back into their education setting. A curriculum, provided by the child or young person's school, which is in line with the education being received by their peers will be delivered. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within this service.

The ambition is to provide quality education at a time when it is not possible for the child/young person to attend their school. The team will support children and young people back into full time education and work with schools to ensure this is successful and that the education delivered is in the right place at the right time.

### **Hours of offer**

Education support tuition is available term time and within normal school hours only.

Each child or young person will be offered a minimum of 5 hours tuition per week.

### **What BESS will do**

The provision within an education support package will be coproduced with the CYP and their families along with relevant professionals.

Once education support has been agreed, a meeting will be carried out by the lead teacher with school and parents/carers to develop a personalised program of work and reintegration plan that will:

- Provide the child or young person with an education that is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and needs
- Detail an initial 6–8-week package of support
- Record agreed outcomes and co-produce a support plan
- Specify how it will facilitate the child or young person's return to suitable full-time education
- Ensure teaching and learning being delivered is quality assured.

### **How will BESS monitor and review provision?**

The local authority will monitor a child or young person's progress on their education support program and share attainment and attendance with school. A review of that provision will occur each 3-4 weeks during the cycle of support.

The review will include the child and young person's views, parent/carers, and involved professionals' view of current provision. Attendance and progress will be discussed along with the suitability of the offer.

Education Support arrangements will be monitored termly by the Service Manager.

The education support team will work collaboratively with the school where the young person remains on roll so that suitable arrangements for exam entry and the completion of external examinations can be made.

The team will support the implementation of ensuring that the right support is given in the right place and at the right time for all CYP.

Practice is underpinned by Barnsley's SEND Strategy 2022 – 2025 values and beliefs

### **Our Values**

- Children and young people always come first: we are here for them.
- We will improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion are at the core of what we do.
- We are open, transparent, accountable, and work in coproduction with partners and stakeholders.

## Our Vision

### Barnsley, the place of possibilities

Our vision is for every child and young person in Barnsley to be fully included, to be happy and thrive in their education and community so that they can develop independence, lead fulfilling lives, and achieve outcomes that are important to them.

We will endeavour to support children and young people to access suitable, full-time education.



## Compass Be

Compass Be Mental Health Support Team work with children, young people, and families in education and community-based settings in Barnsley. They provide free, confidential low intensity cognitive behavioural therapy as well as wider help and advice for young people, families and schools for issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Compass Be, will work closely with tutors in Education Support to create an individual package of care to ensure that children and young people's emotional and

mental health needs are understood and supported as they transition back into their education settings.

**Our intended outcomes:**

- increased attendance and engagement of all learners, particularly of vulnerable groups
- improved educational outcomes for learning, social and emotional development, wellbeing, and resilience
- improve timely transition back into current or alternative settings for children and young people
- improved wellbeing of pupils
- reduce barriers to children and young people accessing full time education

If you would like to contact BESS for further support and/or advice, please email [educationsupport@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:educationsupport@barnsley.gov.uk)

0-19 PHNS Single Point of Access telephone 01226 774411 central email [0-19healthteam@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:0-19healthteam@barnsley.gov.uk) for request of referral form