THE
ADEYFIELD ACADEMY

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Children with Health Needs That Cannot Attend School Policy

Date: **September 2026**

Review Date: **September 2028**

Co-ordinator: **Ms J Day**

Signed by……..……. Dawn Mason (Headteacher)

Signed by…….…….. Kim Bristow (Chair of Governors)

1. Aim

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend The Adeyfield Academy due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents understand what the Academy is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority
- Wherever possible a student is reintegrated back into mainstream learning or advice on specialist provision is agreed
- Legislation and guidance - This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.
- This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

2. Legislation

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority:

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/education-support/get-help-to-access-learning/help-for-children-who-arent-attending-school-regularly.aspx

This policy is also in conjunction with other academy policies , please click here.

3. The Responsibilities of The Adeyfield Academy

3.1 If The Adeyfield Academy Makes The Arrangements

Initially, the academy will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school due to health needs. Arrangements will be overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and coordinated and monitored by the staff member with responsibility for the agreed provision. (See appendix A)

The individual circumstances will be taken into account for each student and following discussion with those involved in the care and planning (see appendix B) a provision will be suggested.

This may include:

- Access via Google Classroom or other online learning tools
- On site provision (e.g. The Thrive Hub)
- Achievement and Resilience Centre
- Individual timetable/adapted quality first teaching methods
- Part time timetable
- Referral to LA attendance team or ESMA (Education for Medical Absence - Advice/guidance and tuition service)

In instances of long-term or repeated absences for any health reason, seeking medical evidence will be appropriate to assist in assessing whether the student requires additional support to help them to attend more regularly, and whether the illness is likely to prevent the child from attending for extended periods. This is required for a referral to local authority tuition services and should meet the criteria of the service. (See appendix C) If a parent proactively seeks out a note from a GP, it does not imply a need for absence unless this is explicit in their letter.

When children are ready to reintegrate to school, a reintegration meeting will be held by the relevant member of staff with the parent and child and an appropriate timetable agreed to transition the child back into the mainstream school routine.

3.2 If The Local Authority Makes The Arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Hertfordshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

If the student is under the care of a hospital and attending provision through a hospital school, the school will liaise directly with tutors via email. While the child is away from school, they will be able to maintain communication with their classmates through online learning platforms

3.2.1 In Cases Where The Local Authority Makes The Arrangements, The Adeyfield Academy Will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any students of compulsory school age who are not attending the academy regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support,

arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)

- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

3.2.2 When Reintegration is Anticipated, Work With The Local Authority To:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the academy, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
- Enable the child to stay in touch with the academy life (e.g. emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to academy events or links to lessons/support from the school), and, where appropriate, through educational or home visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to the academy, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence & consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Ms J Day, Associate Assistant Principal/SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Appendix 1

- Achievement and Resilience Centre (on site provision): Mr M Molokwu -Associate Assistant Head/ Behaviour Lead
- ESMA - Ms J Day - Associate Assistant Head/SENCO
- Short term medical need on site support: Head of Year/Inclusion Team
- Senior Leadership Team with responsibilities for behavior/Attendance

Appendix 2

Parent/carer (those with parental responsibility), the student, medical professionals or advisory services.

Appendix 3

Copy of the current treatment plan and the named medical contact