



ARRANGING EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS UNABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO HEALTH NEEDS

MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

1 Background

- 1.1 The Sir John Brunner Foundation is a multi-academy trust created under the provisions of the Academies Act 2010. The Foundation is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales with company number 11227336. It is an exempt charity and its Directors are also charity trustees.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all secondary (11-16) academies within The Sir John Brunner Foundation. Middlewich High School will act in accordance with this policy and ensure that its contents are shared with all relevant stakeholders.
- 1.3 Secondary academies within The Sir John Brunner Foundation are fully committed to working in accordance with relevant legislation and statutory guidance as set out in Section 2 of this policy.
- 1.4 Secondary academies are fully committed to working with the Local Authority (LA) and supporting children who cannot attend school because of physical or mental health needs.

2 Legislation and Statutory Guidance

- 2.1 Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
- 2.2 Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- 2.3 Equality Act 2010
- 2.4 Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- 2.5 [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, December 2023](#)

3 Introduction

- 3.1 Most students at some time have a medical condition, which may prevent them from attending school. For the majority this will be short term. For students who have long-term or recurrent illness, access to school may be limited. The statutory guidance referenced in Section 2 of this policy sets out that as soon as it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of their health needs, the LA should arrange suitable alternative provision. The 15 days may be consecutive or over the course of a school year.
- 3.2 Middlewich High School seeks to engage all students in the delivery of a high quality education. The Academy works closely with parents and carers, the LA,

health professionals and other applicable agencies to ensure that all students have access to appropriate educational provision, whether they are able to attend school or have a medical need which prevents them from doing so.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 Designated members of the Senior Leadership Team take responsibility for students unable to attend school due to medical needs. Providing a link between The Academy, family and the LA and other agencies, members of the Senior Leadership Team work in conjunction with relevant academy staff to ensure that Middlewich High School's approach to support is personalised, monitored and impactful.
- 4.2 Academy staff act in line with the statutory guidance, fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as set out in 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', December 2023.

5 Provision for Students who Cannot Attend School because of Health Needs

- 5.1 Attendance processes at Middlewich High School are robust. Relevant academy staff work in collaboration with members of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure any student whose absence is of concern has appropriate intervention. When the school becomes aware that a student will be absent for more than 15 school days because of their medical need, the designated Senior Leader will notify the LA's Education Access Team to assist in the continuity of educational provision.
- 5.2 The designated Senior Leader contacts parents/carers to discuss the needs of the child and seek to agree a short-term education plan, confirming the proposed outcomes with other members of the Senior Leadership Team. Information is shared regarding the student's ability, progress and curriculum. In cases of long-term or recurrent absence the designated Senior Leader will participate in the development of a Student Support Plan or Personal Education Plan for the student. This will be written in conjunction with the LA, healthcare professionals, the parents/carers and the student.

6 Monitoring and Recording of Absence

- 6.1 All students who are unable to attend school for more than 15 school days due to health needs will be regularly monitored and reviewed by relevant

academy staff and designated Senior. Ongoing medical advice will be taken into account at all times.

- 6.2 Absence will be recorded on the register as illness (I) or medical (M) when appropriate medical advice/evidence has been received. When a student commences education with an Alternative Education Provider the absence will be recorded as educated off site (e.g. code B). This is in accordance with the LA attendance policy.
- 6.3 Students absent for medical reasons will not be removed from the school roll unless advice is received from the School Medical Officer. Parents/carers will be fully consulted and their consent sought if their child is to be removed from the school roll in these circumstances.

7 Students with Long-Term or Recurring Absence

- 7.1 Some students will be away from school long-term or with recurrent bouts of illness. In these cases, the designated Senior Leader will liaise with the LA to ensure that Alternative Education Provision is put in place as soon as possible. Middlewich High School will have responsibility for ensuring that the education provider has all information regarding curriculum plans. It is acknowledged that continuity of education is important for these students, where possible. For students whose learning progress is being severely affected by long-term absence consideration will be given as to whether Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Needs should commence.
- 7.2 Students with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) may be able to access Alternative Educational Provision through the LA – sometimes with assistance from specialist teaching services. The designated Senior Leader will notify the appropriate agencies if a student with an EHCP is going to be absent from school through health need. The Academy will retain responsibility for co-ordinating the Annual Review meetings and for inviting the appropriate people to such reviews.

8 Reintegration

- 8.1 For students who have been absent from school it may be necessary to have a staged reintegration plan. The designated Senior Leader in collaboration with relevant academy staff and members of the Senior Leadership Team will co-ordinate the initial meeting to instigate a plan, together with the LA, parent/carer, student and any health professionals who may need to be

involved. The reintegration will be monitored and reviewed regularly with all parties to ensure success.

9 Contact between Middlewich High School, Family and Student

- 9.1 Middlewich High School is committed to ensuring that, even if a student is absent for health reasons they should retain contact with the school. After consultation with the family and student, taking into account their wishes in relation to the level of contact, the designated Senior Leader will put a plan into place to ensure contact is maintained.

10 Public Examinations

- 10.1 Wherever possible students will be entered for public examinations. Middlewich High School will endeavour to work with other education providers to ensure that sufficient educational input is made to enable each student to reach their full potential. In some cases, the academy may make special arrangements with Awarding Bodies for students who are unable to attend school because of their health need. As the time for public examination nears, students and parents/carers will be fully consulted by relevant academy staff so that their wishes may be taken into consideration.

11 Monitoring Arrangements

- 11.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if there is a change in legislation or statutory guidance.