

# A Guide to Short Term Education for Children and Young People unable to attend school due to health needs



## Returning to Education after a Brain Injury



Following a brain injury, many children and young people need time to recover before returning to full-time education. A brain injury can affect memory, attention, energy levels, emotions, behaviour, and physical abilities. Your child may become tired very quickly, struggle to concentrate, or feel overwhelmed in busy environments.

Because of this, most children benefit from a gradual and carefully planned return to education. For some, there may be a period when they are not yet well enough to attend their usual school. During this time, education should be flexible and tailored to your child's health needs.

## When your child cannot attend their usual School



If your child is of compulsory school age and temporarily unable to attend their school due to their medical needs, there are options to ensure they continue to receive education that is appropriate for them.

Schools are required to contact the Local Authority (LA) in the event that a child or young person of compulsory school age is likely to be absent for 15 days or more due to their medical needs. As a parent or carer, you can also contact your Local Authority directly to ask what support is available.

The responsibilities of schools and Local Authorities are outlined in the following government guidance:

### [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

#### If your child has an EHCP



If your child already has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), their education can sometimes be arranged in more flexible ways during recovery. You, the school, and the Local Authority case officer may need to discuss alternative arrangements for delivering education away from the usual setting. In some cases, the funding that is already in place through the EHCP can be used differently on a short-term basis to better meet your child's needs.

## What will learning look like while my child is unable to attend school?



A range of alternative educational provision can be put in place for children and young people who cannot attend school temporarily due to their health needs.

Personalised education may be provided:

- At home (often referred to as 'medical tuition')
- In hospital
- In a Specialist Education Centre or Medical Pupil Referral Unit
- Through a combination of face-to-face and online learning



The amount of education offered will depend on your child's health, stamina, and medical advice. It is common for children recovering from a brain injury to start with a small amount of learning and gradually increase over time. Rest and recovery remain a priority.

## The role of your child's School



Even if your child is not attending their usual setting, the school still has an important role. This may include:

- Staying in regular contact with you and your child
- Sharing learning materials or activities that are appropriate and manageable at home
- Helping your child feel connected to their school community
- Planning ahead for your child's return to school, including working with you to develop a re-integration plan to support the transition back to school
- Collaborating and communicating with any alternative education provision in place (e.g. medical tuition services)

Maintaining this connection can help reduce anxiety and make the return to school feel less daunting.

## Working together and reviewing support



Regular communication between you, the school, health professionals, and the Local Authority is essential. Review meetings help ensure that education arrangements continue to support your child's recovery, wellbeing, and long-term outcomes.

If you have concerns or feel that support is not meeting your child's needs, you are entitled to ask questions, request reviews, and seek further advice through your child's school, Local Authority or support services.