



WIRRAL LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME EDUCATION SERVICE

Schools Forum: 14th January 2015

Local Authority: Home Education Statutory Responsibility

Local Authorities are responsible for arranging suitable full-time home education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This is separate from any provision within the Hospital School.

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This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever type of school they attend.

Children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school.

If they receive one to one tuition, for example, the hours of face to face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated

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Where full time education would not be in the best interests of a child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, Local Authorities should provide part time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests.

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Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science

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The Local Authority should:

1. Have a named officer responsible for the home education of children with additional health needs: Derek Kitchin who reports to the Strategic Lead for SEN
2. Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
3. Review provision regularly

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The Aims of Wirral HES:

- To provide a suitable and flexible education appropriate to the child's needs and responsive to changing health needs
- To promote high expectations of young people and help them achieve realistic targets
- To work in effective partnership with children and young people, their parents, schools and partner agencies e.g. Health Professionals including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Social Care
- To enable each young person to return to mainstream education.

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Referral Process & Admissions Criteria:

- Referral on medical grounds must be made by a Consultant Paediatrician or Senior Grade Doctor in the case of hospital referrals, a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist or Clinical Psychologist.
- If the referral comes from an educational setting it is the responsibility of that educational setting to collate the necessary evidence for the referral to the Home Teaching Service
- A General Practitioner cannot authorise a request for home tuition.
- The service may be withdrawn if there is no current medical evidence or the family/young person fails to engage with the medical professionals or attend lessons.

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Medical reasons for referral fall into 3 broad categories:-

1. Surgical and Medical Conditions
2. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)
3. Mental Health

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Teaching Venues

Young people are taught in various venues depending on their medical conditions and needs:

- Within their home or the home of a family member if this is more appropriate
- Within the Home Education Base at Joseph Paxton Campus (this helps to maintain the routine of coming into school and can facilitate reintegration into an educational setting. At times, appropriate students may be grouped to avoid social isolation)
- In a local library or other suitable place (if moving out of the house is part of their recovery or the home is 'unsuitable'.)

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Current Numbers supported by HES

(January 2015)

Students on Home Teaching Register as of 9th January 2015

YEAR	GIRLS	BOYS
1		1
2		
3		3
4		2
5		3
6	1	2
7		3
8	1	1
9	3	2
10	5	4
11	12	7
12	1	1
TOTAL	23	29
TOTAL GIRLS + BOYS	52	

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Current Challenges 1

- The length of stay in hospital for children has reduced in the last few years to around 1.6 days on average. Children are then discharged to "Hospital at Home" care. Instead of being taught as a group on the ward by one teacher, each child now needs individual tuition.
- Increasing numbers of complex referrals that require relatively long term home teaching e.g. Children discharged from, e.g. Alder Hey following complex procedures and requiring up to 4 months convalescence.
- Increasing numbers and complexity of CAMHS referrals in general; numbers have grown and particularly in Years 10 and 11. 26 referrals to HES in 2011/12, 51 referrals in 2013/14.
- There is greater prevalence of and level of anxiety amongst children with ASC; often found to be related to school and the social demands of adolescence.

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Cost of Service

Budget 2014-15 **£248,800**

Forecast Costs:

Teachers/Tutors	363,000
Travel and Phones	10,000
Equipment and Materials	7,000
Support Costs	41,000
Income	(89,000)

Net Expenditure 332,000

Additional costs 83,200