

Encouraging Attendance: A Graduated Approach: Southampton Hospital School



For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. We are committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all our pupils and endeavour to provide an environment where all pupils feel valued and welcome. Parents/ Carers and pupils play a part in making our school so successful. Every child has a right to access the education to which he/she is entitled. Parents/carers and teachers share the responsibility for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality for all.

It is our duty to consistently strive for the highest possible attendance for all of our children. Every opportunity will be used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance.

Our pupils at Southampton Hospital School face greater barriers to attendance than their peers due to the high likelihood that they are suffering from long term medical conditions and/or have special educational needs and disabilities. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same. However, due to the high level of need of many of our pupils, we remain mindful of the barriers these pupils face and put additional support in place where necessary to help them access education during their hospital admission or referral to our outreach service. We understand that good school attendance is a protective factor for many vulnerable pupils and so we aim to support and build attendance both with us and back within their own schools

All pupils

- We aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents, and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn. We monitor and record attendance through the completion of admission and attendance registers and use data to identify patterns of poor attendance at individual and cohort level to ensure that everyone is working together to identify barriers and resolve issues.

Inpatients

- We work closely with pupils, parents, medical professionals within the hospital and relevant external agencies to encourage full time attendance either at bedside or in one of our classrooms. Where part time timetables are necessary to allow for health needs, we will always treat this as temporary and increase the education offer as quickly as we can whilst remaining sensitive to their individual needs. We will work closely with pupils' home schools prior to discharge, to ensure attendance continues. This can include contributing to reintegration plans and the writing of IHCPs.

Outreach

- Our outreach pupils all carry a history of low attendance at their own schools, due to their medical condition. We work closely with the School Attendance Support Team and other external agencies around the child to promote regular attendance both with our teachers and with their own schools through carefully planned reintegration programmes.



SHS Graduated Response to Supporting and Improving Attendance:

Universal support: all pupils

- ✓ On admission or referral, adults quickly establish warm relationships with children and parents
- ✓ Teachers and leaders work closely with the medical teams or referring schools to gain information, including health status and attendance histories, to enable timetables and curriculum offers to be quickly and effectively tailored
- ✓ Children are welcomed every session to ensure they feel known and valued
- ✓ The classrooms provide a safe physical and emotional space for learning
- ✓ Where children are unable to access classrooms, the teaching is taken to bedside or to children's homes and safe spaces
- ✓ Strong relationships and open communication are formed with parents
- ✓ Incentives and rewards are given for attending the classroom or engaging with learning
- ✓ The Attendance Officer will scrutinise attendance data weekly to look for patterns, trends, and concerns. This information will be shared with the Headteacher.

Early Intervention Support: Pupils who display initial reluctance to attend**Inpatients:**

- ✓ If children are initially reluctant to access teaching in the hospital, teachers will return regularly with incentives (games, rewards etc) to encourage attendance. Teachers will also work alongside hospital staff (OT, SALT, Play Specialists) to create learning conditions that enable children to feel happy and comfortable
- ✓ Timetables will be created to ensure medical needs and planned procedures are taken fully into account (e.g. poor sleep patterns, pain, medication side effects, regular medical and therapeutic interventions). Medical professionals and parents will always be consulted.
- ✓ Lesson times will be altered and amended as necessary to allow for the maximum number of teaching hours to be achieved
- ✓ ELSA and TIS Practitioner support
- ✓ Teachers will exercise professional curiosity at all times and share all relevant information as necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child. This will be in accordance with the SHS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Outreach:

- ✓ If children at home are initially reluctant to engage with teaching sessions, teachers will continue to arrive at the agreed times, unless a health or social care professional advises that this is not in the child's best interests
- ✓ Teachers will exercise professional curiosity at all times and share all relevant information as necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child. This will be in accordance with the SHS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- ✓ Lesson times and durations may be altered and amended as necessary to allow for the maximum number of teaching hours to be achieved
- ✓ A graduated exposure plan will be created in agreement with the pupil, their family, school and any relevant external services
- ✓ A change in teaching environment will be considered to encourage attendance and engagement
- ✓ Temporary offer of remote or blended learning
- ✓ Providing social stories
- ✓ ELSA and TIS Practitioner support



Targeted additional support: pupils who continue not to attend or whose attendance with SHS falls or remains irregular during admission

Inpatients:

- ✓ Liaising closely with children's schools to share information pertaining to possible barriers to attendance
- ✓ SENDCO led assessment to identify any previously unidentified educational needs that might be negatively affecting attendance and engagement
- ✓ Teachers will invite parents into teaching spaces alongside their child for early teaching sessions
- ✓ Liaison with the medical team around the child to discuss attendance and formulate plans to encourage and support young people and their families
- ✓ Teaching staff and leaders attend MDT meetings and ward rounds to discuss strategies to increase attendance
- ✓ Inviting parents to meet with teaching staff to identify barriers and encourage attendance
- ✓ Inviting trusted adults from pupils' own schools to visit pupils and support them in the learning environment

Outreach:

- ✓ Liaising closely with children's schools to share information pertaining to possible barriers to attendance, previous patterns of attendance, previous school safeguarding concerns etc
- ✓ SENDCO led assessment to identify any previously unidentified educational needs that might be negatively affecting attendance and engagement
- ✓ Concerns shared with Local Authority Medical Needs Inclusion Officers and a plan agreed
- ✓ Concerns shared with Educational Welfare Services

Targeted intensive additional support: pupils who do not attend

Outreach:

- ✓ Continue to liaise closely with children's schools to share information pertaining to possible barriers to attendance, previous patterns of attendance, previous school safeguarding concerns etc.
- ✓ SENDCO led assessment to identify any previously unidentified educational needs that might be negatively affecting attendance and engagement
- ✓ Concerns shared with Local Authority Medical Needs Inclusion Officers and a plan agreed
- ✓ Concerns shared with Educational Welfare Services
- ✓ Referral to Child Missing Education Services