

## **HOP Admissions Policy**

At HOP, we are dedicated to ensuring that pupils' access to education is preserved as far as their medical condition allows when they are unable to attend mainstream education due to health needs. This is achieved through supporting and empowering young people, their schools, families, carers and professional networks.

HOP provides access to the National Curriculum, tailored to each pupil's ability and medical needs, with a strong emphasis on recovery, reintegration and long-term educational outcomes. Reintegration remains a core priority, enabling pupils to return to education as soon as it is appropriate and safe to do so.

We aim to offer collaborative and therapeutic support by working closely with schools and professionals to create a personalised plan that addresses each student's needs and supports a timely and successful reintegration wherever possible.

HOP works in close partnership with schools, medical professionals, Social Care, Lewisham Virtual School and the Virtual School CAMHS team to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach around every child.

## **Statutory Responsibilities**

Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, and in line with DfE guidance (2013) – *Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school*, Local Authorities must arrange suitable education for children of compulsory school age who cannot attend school because of illness.

This education should be full-time, or part-time where full-time education is not in the child's best interests because of their physical or mental health.

HOP supports Lewisham Local Authority in meeting this statutory duty.

## **Provision Routes**

HOP provides education for young people resident in the **London Borough of Lewisham** who are unable to attend school for medical reasons, using a holistic approach through two routes:

### **1) Outreach Provision**

The Outreach element of Lewisham's Medical Provision supports children where it is deemed that, due to illness, they would not otherwise receive suitable education as defined by Section 19 and the associated DfE guidance.

HOP Outreach usually takes place in the child's home and aims to mirror, as far as possible, the hours and expectations of the HOP School Room. The intention is to provide an **equivalent educational offer**, or as much education as the child's health condition reasonably allows.

As with the HOP School Room, where a child is medically well enough, **all school-age children are legally required to engage with education once referred and admitted to HOP Outreach.**

Each child will have a **bespoke education plan**, ensuring that their timetable reflects their needs, strengths and medical condition. This may include:

- Online learning platforms
- 1:1 outreach teaching
- Group learning opportunities
- Therapeutic interventions and support

### **Referral and Admission Criteria – HOP Outreach**

The referral and admission process for HOP Outreach is as follows:

- The child must be **on roll at a Lewisham school**, or if on roll at an out-of-borough school, provide **evidence of a Lewisham residential address.**
- The child must **remain on roll at their home school** while registered with the HOP programme.
- Referrals must be made by schools by completing **all sections of the HOP referral form**, available at:  
<http://lewishamvirtualschool.org.uk/lvs-services/hop-hospital-outreach-programme/>
- Schools must submit:
  - **Medical evidence**, and
  - **Evidence of at least 15 consecutive school days of non-attendance** due to medical reasons.\*\*
- Only an **appropriate medical professional** can confirm that a child's condition prevents school attendance:
  - A physical health **consultant or paediatrician**, or
  - A **CAMHS consultant** for SEMH-related needs.

- The child must remain under **medical supervision or guidance** while registered with HOP.
  - If known to CAMHS, the child should remain open to this service while on the HOP programme.
- Referrals to HOP should represent the **final intervention** to engage a child in education, where there is a clear and evidenced medical reason preventing school attendance.
- Schools must be able to demonstrate that they have implemented **reasonable adjustments**, in line with *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions* (DfE, April 2014), including:
  - Evidence of in-school strategies attempted
  - The issuing and implementation of an **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP)**.
- Upon receipt of all required documentation, HOP will review whether:
  - The referral criteria are met, and
  - The child's needs can be safely and appropriately supported by the service.
- If accepted, an **initial Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting** will be arranged with the child and parents/carers.
- At this meeting, parents/carers and the child will be expected to sign a **Home-School Agreement**, outlining expectations, responsibilities and standards while engaged with HOP.
- A **start date** will be agreed at the end of the TAC meeting, with the expectation that:
  - The child, parents/carers, home school and relevant professionals attend a **6-week review meeting**.
- Following the 6-week review, a decision will be made regarding:
  - Readiness for a **planned reintegration**, or
  - The need for continued HOP support.
- Where a student remains on the HOP programme following two attempted reintegration plans, an emergency review will take place to consider whether an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) should be initiated.

- Throughout the placement, the child will remain on roll at their home school, with HOP providing regular updates and contributing to review meetings as required.

