

HOP Mission Statement

At HOP, we are committed to preserving pupils' access to education as fully as their health condition allows, while they are unable to attend school due to medical needs. Our provision is underpinned by an engagement-based approach, recognising that emotional wellbeing, connection and readiness to learn are fundamental to securing positive educational outcomes, rather than a sole focus on attainment.

We support and empower young people alongside their schools, families, carers and professional networks to maintain continuity of education during periods of ill health. While HOP provides access to the National Curriculum, all learning is highly personalised, taking account of each pupil's ability, medical needs and capacity to engage.

Reintegration into appropriate long-term school placement, wherever suitable and in line with a child's needs, remains a central priority. We believe that timely return to a school environment, when appropriate, best supports pupils to achieve their potential. HOP provides collaborative and therapeutic support, working closely with schools to identify barriers to learning, agree clear reintegration pathways and support transition at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

HOP adopts a holistic approach and works in partnership with medical professionals, Social Care, Lewisham Virtual School, CAMHS and other agencies to ensure education provision is coordinated, responsive and centred on the child's wellbeing.

Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and the Department for Education guidance (2013), Local Authorities must arrange suitable full-time education, or part-time education where this is more appropriate due to health, for children of compulsory school age who are unable to attend school because of illness, beginning once absence reaches or is likely to exceed 15 school days. HOP delivers this statutory duty on behalf of Lewisham Local Authority.

Hospital Education Provision

The hospital element of Lewisham's Medical Provision educates children while they are admitted to hospital, in line with Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school (DfE, 2013). This provision is based at University Hospital Lewisham (UHL).

HOP at UHL is located in The School Room within the Harris Family Suite, on the first floor of the Children's Inpatient Ward (Green Zone). The School Room is designed to look and feel like a classroom, providing a structured and inspiring learning environment that promotes normality and engagement during hospital stays.

The HOP School Room operates during term time from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Where pupils are medically well enough, school-age children are legally required to attend. Pupils who choose not to attend education when well enough will not have access to the playroom during school hours.

In addition to core curriculum learning, HOP works with external partners to enhance engagement and wellbeing, including museums, local authors and other cultural or educational organisations, where appropriate and available.

Outreach Education Provision

The Outreach element of Lewisham's Medical Provision supports children who, due to illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education, in line with DfE guidance (2013).

HOP Outreach typically takes place within the child's home environment and reflects the principles and expectations of the hospital provision. Outreach operates during term time from 9.30am to 3.30pm, with the aim of offering up to 24 hours of education per week, or as much education as the child's health condition allows.

Once referred and deemed medically fit to engage, school-age pupils are expected to attend HOP Outreach as agreed within their individual provision.

Each pupil has a Personal Education Plan (PEP), which ensures that education is tailored to their health, engagement levels and learning needs. Outreach provision may include:

One-to-one teaching sessions

Small group learning opportunities

Online learning platforms

Commissioned tutors or mentors

Work-based or vocational learning opportunities

CAMHS involvement

Therapeutic inputs, including art or music therapy, subject to availability

The Outreach model is flexible and responsive, prioritising sustained engagement, wellbeing and preparation for reintegration, while maintaining high aspirations for all learners.