

# SHIREMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CME HEALTH NEEDS POLICY



**Adopted February 2020**

Where a child has health needs that mean significant time away from school, Shiremoor Primary will continue to work with parents and the Local Authority to ensure that the child has appropriate support to continue with their education. This will apply whether the child is in hospital or at home.

When a child is in hospital, liaison between hospital teaching staff, the LA's alternative provision/home tuition service and the child's school can ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum. It can ensure that the school can make information available about the curriculum and work the child may miss, helping the child to keep up.

Shiremoor Primary School will not remove a child from the school register due to health without parental consent and certification from the school medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the child's education. Continuity is important for children and knowing that they can return to their familiar surroundings and school friends can help their recovery and their educational progress.

Shiremoor Primary School will ensure that children can successfully remain in touch with their school while they are away. This could be through school newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school.

Shiremoor Primary School will work with parents to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child. This may have to include extra support to help fill any gaps arising from the child's absence. It may be appropriate to involve the school nurse at this stage as they may be able to offer valuable advice. The school nurse will also want to be aware that the child is returning to school, so that they can be prepared to offer any appropriate support. Under equalities legislation Shiremoor Primary School will consider whether they need to make any reasonable adjustments to provide suitable access for the child.

Where a child's absence is likely to be lengthy, the reintegration plan may only take shape nearer to the likely date of return, to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill child in the early stages of their absence. While most children will want to return to their previous school routine at once, some will need gradual reintegration over a longer period.

Efficient and effective liaison is important when children with health needs are approaching public examinations. Shiremoor Primary will be able to arrange a suitable focus on the child's education at this stage in order to minimise the impact of the time lost while the child is unable to attend school and to support them in catching up as far as possible.