



## **SEN AND MENTAL HEALTH INITIAL CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOLS : SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MEDICAL NEEDS AND/OR ANXIETY LINKED TO SCHOOL**

The Wandsworth statutory offer is to support children who are **too unwell to attend school as determined by their medical consultant**. Often, we are contacted to advise on children and young people who are not too unwell to attend school, but are unwell and finding it difficult to attend school or are presenting as school phobic or with anxiety linked to school attendance.

In these instances we may be able to offer support and guidance. However, the first step is to check the provision for this child according to the points below. This is our first step in ensuring a good education for children with medical needs.

### **Support for a child attending school with medical needs**

- Is a SEN Support plan in place? Please consider use of the schools received SEN funding.
- Does the SEN Support plan take into consideration advice from medical consultants and CAMHS on how much education this child should be engaging in?
- Does the young person have an Individual Health Care Plan?
- If parents are struggling to support or put in boundaries at home (this can exist simultaneously to a parent wish for the child to return to education) has an escalation to Early Help/Social Services been explored to offer further support to parents?
- If early help is involved what options of support have been tried?
- Has the curriculum and accreditation offer been reduced in light of medical advice?
- Has the timetable been reduced and tailored to ensure the young person accesses 5 GCSE's including core subjects?
- Has the YP been supported to access live online lessons when unable to attend school?
- Has a key member of staff been identified in school and time allocated for the student to meet this staff member regularly?
- Has the YP got a friend or group of friends who can be gathered for key times of vulnerability e.g. start of school, lunch or transitions?
- Has a referral for Generate been considered to assist with socially re-engaging the young person?
- Are the school's mental health leads (MHFA trained), possibly as part of the mental health trailblazing programme, being used to offer support to the young person and family?
- If this has not been successful has a referral to CAMHS been completed

- Have further assessments been initiated to identify additional needs e.g. ASD

**If a young person has identified SEN Needs and an EHCP with specific support I would add to the above list:**

1. Has a named LSA been put in place?
2. What is the best use of the LSA – to support in normal lessons/to give catch up sessions individually/to welcome young person in at the start of each day and ease him into lessons?
3. Considering young person's medical and now mental health history; has the young person missed a considerable amount of education and now risks falling out of education entirely. Consider whether a fairer option for this young person is that they re-sit the year or move into the sixth form and sit GCSE's alongside other provision.
4. Has consideration of how an EHCP might enable a special school placement, if needed
5. Has the school contacted a local special school to gather advice on strategies?
6. Has a referral to disability services been completed?

For further information and resources please see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

Please always feel free to contact WHHTS for further advice.

### **WANDSWORTH HOSPITAL AND HOME TUITION SERVICE (WHHTS)**

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