

Access to Education for Children with Medical Needs Protocol

Warwickshire Flexible Learning Team offers support for students who are unable to attend school due to ill health or pregnancy.

In almost all cases, students who are struggling to attend school will be offered in-school support. This is because students who access flex learning are seldom able to return to full time education which can impact on their life chances in the future.

Requests for support from the flex learning team can only be made via the school.

Conditions of Flex Learning

Flex learning should only be used in exceptional circumstances under the following conditions:

- confirmation of a medical diagnosis by a medical practitioner
- confirmation that mainstream school can no longer meet need by a medical practitioner
- confirmation that the student's condition is too extreme to be able to sit exams or access a full suite of subjects
- completion of the flex learning form by the school in association with parents or carer.

Subject to the above conditions being met:

- flex learning will only be authorised for half a term.
- the 6 week programme of provision will be managed by the school's flex learning link and a named pastoral teacher who is in regular contact with the flex learning tutor.
- Warwickshire flex learning support tutor will send in a fortnightly progress report
- the school's flex learning link and a named pastoral teacher will conduct regular checks, including meetings with student and parent/carers and home visits.

Any extension to the flex learning programme will only be authorised subject to a needs assessment which must include:

- additional medical information
- an application for higher needs funding (if provision has cost more than the threshold)

Any referral to flex learning must be countersigned by the Principal. Authorisation will only be granted following a full review of medical notes, a review of support offered by the school and contact with external agencies such as GP and school nursing service.

Subject to this authorisation, parents and the applicable student must sign an agreement agreeing to the terms of this external support.