

During his/her school life, a child may need to spend some time in hospital, due to illness, accident or for treatment of a particular medical condition.

The Hospital Education Service exists to offer education to children and young people in such circumstances and provides support emotionally as well as educationally.

The Hospital Education Service is part of East Ayrshire Support Team (EAST). It provides support for children and young people of school age who:

- have been admitted to hospital for an extended period
- are frequently readmitted to hospital

The Hospital Education Service is made up of a teacher who works as part of a multi-disciplinary team. A Principal Teacher has first line responsibility for the Hospital Education Service.

The HES teacher undertakes additional personal study to remain abreast of current best practice around education in hospital and is a member of associated national groups including Hospital Organisation of Pedagogues in Europe (HOPE).

### **Referral procedures**

Referrals to the Hospital Education Service come through Medical Team, Educational Establishments, Educational Psychologist, and parents/carers.

The Hospital Education Service contributes to the authority's support policies and procedures to reflect best practice as detailed in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 and Standard Circular 82 through:

- Consultation, liaison, advisory support
- Curriculum & Staff Development
- Direct teaching
- Supporting early identification and assessment

### **What the Hospital Education Service does**

#### **Consultation, liaison, advisory support**

- Links with base schools are maintained to ensure continuity and progression of education, and consistency of approach and material used
- Participates in multi-disciplinary meetings for planning and review

#### **Curriculum & Staff Development**

- Provides guidance to colleagues in educational establishments who are making provision for learners who will access or have accessed the Hospital Education Service
- Delivers career-long professional learning (CLPL) opportunities for colleagues to increase knowledge and understanding in this area
- Provides training to NHS colleagues on the Hospital Education Service and offers advice on Educational matters
- The hospital teacher contributes to various

working groups within the NHS, some of which have included Introduction of insulin pumps, Communication Passport, Research on children's views of hospitalisation

#### **Direct teaching**

- Teaching takes place at the bedside or at a location best suited to the medical needs of the learner in the children's ward
- The hospital teacher also supports patients of school age within adult wards
- Maintaining health and wellbeing is an essential element of recovery. Therefore the Hospital Education Service provides a holistic approach incorporating support from a range of sources including: Clown Doctors, Scouts, TCV, Country Park Rangers, Creative Minds Team and departments within the hospital
- Pupils attending the HES are often involved in working on NHS initiatives and have recently created a series of 'Top Tips for Teeth' in partnership with the Oral Health Team
- Currently working on the 'Royal Horticultural Society Schools Gardening Project' and have gained certification up to L3

#### **Support early identification and assessment**

- Contributes to ongoing assessment of pupils whilst in hospital

## Parental links

Communication with parents/carers is maintained regarding the educational progress of their child whilst they are in hospital. The hospital teacher speaks with parents/carers on regular basis, also offering support in a pastoral capacity through what can be an anxious and difficult time.

On discharge a report is issued to the parents/carers of long term pupils.

## Useful links

[www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/6846/0](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/6846/0)

[www.wellatschool.org](http://www.wellatschool.org)

[www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

[www.medicalconditionsatschool.org.uk](http://www.medicalconditionsatschool.org.uk)

## For further information please contact:

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**EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM**

**Service Leaflet**

**Hospital  
Education  
Service**