

Leicestershire County Council Recoupment Policy for  
Children with Autism who are not attending school

**Leicestershire County Council**

**Recoupment Policy for Children with Autism**

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**1. DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS POLICY:**

<b>Council</b>	Leicestershire County Council
<b>School/s</b>	This includes Academy's, Maintained, Independent Special Schools, other education establishments that receive funding directly from the Council to cover a pupil's normal full time education
<b>AOS</b>	Autism Outreach Service
<b>CMN</b>	Children with Medical Needs
<b>SEIPs</b>	Secondary Education Inclusion Partnership

**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Recoupment Policy for Children with Autism sets out how the Council recoups the average per pupil funding from schools for children who have Autism who are unable to attend school and are supported by the County to receive education through an alternative provider and/or AOS staff. This policy is based on the requirements of Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and the Equality Act 2010 in that the Local Authority must *arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.*
- 2.2 This Recouping Policy covers all schools that require education to be provided off the school site by AOS and/or alternative providers arranged by the Council. The contents of this policy apply to all schools unless otherwise stated.
- 2.3 This policy is to be used in conjunction with the Framework agreement for the provision of Autism Outreach and Children with Medical Needs Support Services. The Council will commission all its Services for Children with Medical Needs and Autism through this framework to ensure high quality education for all young people.
- 2.4 This policy will be applied from 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019 for all new and all existing referrals and contracts held by the Council
- 2.5 The policy should be read in conjunction with associated procedures

**3. POLICY SCOPE**

- 3.1 The policy covers recouping arrangements for children and young people of statutory school age who receive education services due to needs associated with Autism such as School based anxiety or school refusal and unable to attend their normal educational setting.
- 3.2 Schools requiring services that are arranged by the council, under *Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs Jan 2013*.

#### **4. CORE PRINCIPALS OF THE POLICY**

- 4.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out the arrangements in recovering the average per pupil funding for alternative provision currently commissioned by the AOS, as agreed through Schools Forum.
- 4.2 The recoupment policy forms part of a wider inclusive/local offer for young people with medical needs; that enables access to a tiered approach with the ethos of providing the right level of support whilst enabling reintegration back in to mainstream school at the right time. This includes:
- Advice and support to schools to enable them to support children with SEND needs in their current educational environment
  - Working alongside the current SEIP Surgery provision to enable support to be accessed locally, specifically to support children with social, emotional and mental health needs
  - High Needs Placement's where children are required to attend specialist educational placement as a result of their needs.
- 4.3 The policy will:
- Encourage schools and the Council to better work together to ensure good quality provision can be provided to children with SEND needs.
  - Improve advice to schools will increase the capacity in school to help support children with Autism and maintain their education in the school environment.
  - Provide better access to support for schools including services such as Mental Health Well-being Practitioners, Secondary Education Inclusion Partnerships, Health, etc.; understanding statutory requirements, duties and responsibilities
  - Less children will experience long periods out of the school environment
  - Make more effective use of available resources, the risk of 'double funding' will be reduced or eliminated
  - Enables a more affordable and sustainable model of delivery able to meet any future increase in demand for provision.
  - Align with Leicestershire's statistical neighbours in recouping pupil funding in order to manage the increased demand within the authority
- 4.3 The application of a standard charge and improved early re-integration back in to school; the policy will help mitigate the financial burden on schools.

#### **5. DETAILS OF THE RECOUPMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

5.1 The recoupment policy is based on that followed for pupils permanently excluded and for those subject to dual registration at Oakfield and through the Secondary Education Inclusion Partnership's. This is also in line with many of our neighbouring authorities.

5.2 The method of recovery applies to a standard charge per day banded to primary and secondary schools, applicable from the first day of provision.

The charge is set at the beginning of each financial year based on the Leicestershire School funding formula.

5.3 For 2019/20 the rates are:

- Primary £18.92 per day;
- Key stage 3 £26.60 per day;
- Key stage 4 £30.20 per day

5.4 Schools will be charged in arrears on a termly basis. They will be charged for every day the pupil does not receive education on the school site.

5.5 Applying a standard charge to primary and secondary ensures that no particular school is disadvantaged particularly where there might be a high cost placement, for example when commissioned by the NHS, or where a child may be out of school for an extended period.

## 6. CARE AND SUPPORT FOR WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL NOT CHARGE

6.1 Schools will not be asked to fund any placements for a particular child at full cost.

## 7. SUPPORTING PAPERS, DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Council Procurement Process:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-spending/doing-business-with-the-council>

## 8. CONTACTS

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