

Private Therapy Provision School Guidelines

As a school we are aware that some children are in receipt of private therapy provision. We recognise this can complement their NHS health programmes and enable them to access some latest and innovative specialist equipment and therapies.

Most of the time this therapy is outside of school and where this is during the school day, meaning the child has some time off, the school office needs to be notified in advance. Sometimes there can be an extensive period of private therapy intervention for a short intensive period. Other times this can be on-going for longer term interventions. We request that wherever possible appointments take place early in the morning or late afternoon thus warranting minimal time off school and disruption to the child's education. We support children to have maximum therapy provision, but this does need to be balanced with school curricular activities for statutory school aged children. If there is an excessive amount of appointments that mean significant time out of school the Headteacher will meet with parents/carers to discuss how this can be managed &/or hold a school attendance meeting.

With regards to children's provision at school this is under the guidance of health / NHS provision. Where a child receives private therapy provision as well, we expect these services to work in collaboration and liaise with regards to specific treatments and programmes that are recommended.

Very occasionally we are asked by a parent/carer if a private therapist can carry out some of their private treatments in school. When this request is made of school, we require the parent/carer and / or private therapist to inform and liaise with the appropriate health professional who is involved in the child's care. This should be in advance of any request made to school and documented. If there are training implications for school staff around a child's therapy needs, then the practitioner providing the programme of care needs to ensure staff receive appropriate training. This is to ensure that they are deemed competent to carry out the intervention independent of the therapist as a delegated task.

Any equipment that may be involved with the child's therapy needs to meet British Safety Standards.