

Fitness to Study Policy			
Current Status:	Operational	Last Review:	
Policy Owner:	Group Head of Welfare and Safeguarding	Next Review:	July 2026
Roles Responsible for Review:		Originated:	February 2025
Approved by:	Post 16 Curriculum and Quality	Committee:	Educational Excellence Committee
Type of Policy:	Staff / Students / Governors / External	Quality Assured by:	Policy Team

1. Summary

- 1.1. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and any other personnel associated with Eastern Education Group Trust (EEGT), which includes:
- Chalk Hill
 - Duke of Lancaster School
 - Exning Primary School
 - Priory School
 - Stone Lodge Academy
 - Sunrise Academy

2. Introduction

- 2.1 EEG aims for all our schools to be a welcoming, inclusive for all who learn, work or use our services. We believe in respect for everyone; and want to develop our community by valuing diversity and advancing equality.
- 2.2 EEG seeks to ensure that all its children can study and take advantage of the educational opportunities on offer to the best of their abilities in a supportive and inclusive environment.
- 2.3 EEG recognises its duties under the Equality Act to ensure that it makes reasonable adjustments to address any substantial disadvantages that students with disabilities may face in accessing the services, facilities and benefits its schools offer.

3. Significant / urgent concerns about a child's physical or mental health

- 3.1 In circumstances where there are significant / urgent concerns about the risks posed by a child's physical and/or mental health, immediate action will need to be taken.

- 3.2 Where a child may be a danger to themselves or to others, the safeguarding team will assess the risk posed by the child and will contact their parent/guardian to advise that their child must:
- return home, or
 - be taken to a place of safety,
- and ask them to collect their child. If appropriate the safeguarding team will advise the parent/guardian to seek medical aid / take them to hospital.
- 3.3 In this instance of high risk, a decision about a child’s fitness to study will be made by the safeguarding team who will assess risk.
- 3.4 The child will be required to remain absent from school until their medical practitioner advises that they are fit to return to study and that any potential risks are manageable within the environment in which they are studying. Confirmation of this decision must be made in writing by the GP/hospital where possible. This would also need to be in the best interests of the child’s progress.
- 3.5 During the period of absence from the school, the safeguarding team will maintain regular contact with the parent/guardian to ensure the child’s wellbeing and progress are monitored and any return to school can be managed positively and effectively. All contact will be recorded appropriately on the school safeguarding systems. Contact will involve many forms including – home visit, teams’ meetings, and phone calls with the child.
- 3.6 The school will remain mindful of its duty to care and its obligations to students under the Equality Act 2010 including its obligations to make reasonable adjustments as well as the obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. However, situations may arise where the support needs of a child as a result of changes in their physical or mental health, fall outside the scope of support the school can reasonably be expected to provide (e.g. providing additional staff support in cases of suspected epilepsy).
- 3.7 This is not an exhaustive list. This is usually the case where the behaviour arises out of a health condition or a disability and persists despite all reasonable adjustments having been made to accommodate it.

Revision History – Fitness to Study Policy

Revision date	Reason for revision	Section number	Changes made
February 2025	EEGT Required	1 – 4	SEND Schools and Exning arrangements.