

Frequently Asked Questions

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Who can make a referral to GHES?

Referrals directly to GHES can be made by an NHS consultant, community paediatrician or a registered clinician of a child in treatment with CAMHS. They must be able to confirm that due to the child's current medical condition they are too unwell to attend their main school, and they also must be able to confirm they will be overseeing their treatment for the duration they are with GHES for the primary reason for the referral. GHES are unable to accept referrals directly from parents, schools, GPs or other professionals. More information can be found in our Admissions Policy and our current referral form is available here on the website.

Where a child is not accessing education due to health needs, but there may not be an appropriate medical professional involved, a school (in consultation with a Parent/ Carer) can request that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) considers the need for Alternative Education Provision as part of its Section 19 responsibilities. GHES is part of the multi-agency forum that assesses needs of these pupils and supports decision-making on the appropriate intervention for children. GHES is one of the outcome pathways. The referral form for schools is available on GCC website:

<https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/S19Form>

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Do you accept referrals if a young person is on the waiting list for CAMHS?

For referrals made by medical professionals, a young person must have a named Care Co-ordinator at Core CAMHS and be receiving ongoing treatment/therapy in order to access GHES provision. This is because we need there to be a mental health professional with whom to liaise for advice and guidance. As a short-term service, we also need to be assured that there is a trajectory for improvement in the young person's health condition.

If your child needs mental health support, a self-referral can be made to Teens in Crisis (tic+) ticplus.org.uk. Many schools in Gloucestershire are also part of the Young Mind Matter (YMM) project, so your child may be able to access support from them: <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/camhs/young-minds-matter/>

Where there is no CAMHS professional actively involved, then schools are able to make a Section 19 referral to request that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) considers the need for Alternative Education Provision as part of its Section 19 responsibilities. GHES is part of the multi-agency forum that assesses needs of these pupils and supports decision-making on the appropriate intervention for children. GHES is one of the outcome pathways. The referral form for schools is available on GCC website: <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/S19Form>

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My child has an EHCP – will you accept a referral?

GHES does not generally provide education for pupils with an EHCP other than in specific situations. We would normally expect the funding attached to the plan to be used creatively and flexibly to meet the educational needs of the young person, for example: use of an online learning provider, such as Academy 21; a mentoring service; or 1:1 tuition in the home. We would recommend an emergency review of the EHCP takes place in which options can be discussed.

Exceptions would be made when:

- a pupil with a medical condition, that is unrelated to the EHCP, and the EHCP cannot reasonably meet the needs linked to the medical condition
- a pupil with a medical condition requiring statutory assessment to identify and support access to school
- post operative recovery support.

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My child is having surgery and will be off school – can you help?

As soon as you know a date for surgery, let your child's school know. We recommend that the school contacts us for advice and guidance around planning provision and support for the period of your child's recovery.

Whilst your child is recovering from their surgery there is lots that school can do to provide education and enable a student to access their learning, for example:

- Work can be sent home
- Online learning offered
- Ability to access to lessons remotely
- Part-time timetable agreed
- Use of a wheelchair

In our experience, where recovery is expected to take a relatively short time (up to 6-8 weeks), it is preferable for the school to put in place plans themselves which will enable continuity of education for the student. For extended periods of recovery, it may be more appropriate for GHES to offer education. Your child's school can speak to GHES directly about this.

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Can a paediatrician refer my child for their anxiety?

For a student referred via a medical professional (NHS consultant, core CAMHS), they must have a named contact who is overseeing treatment of the primary health need for which they are being referred, and that condition is the reason the young person is unable to attend school. This is because GHES is a short-term reintegration service, so we need a clear treatment pathway in place and also a medical professional who can liaise with us around health needs, progress, advice and guidance. Therefore, whilst we do accept referrals from paediatricians for *physical* health conditions, we may not accept referrals for anxiety / low mood from a paediatrician if the young person is having no direct support for their mental health.

Where there is no appropriate medical professional involved, then schools are able to make a Section 19 referral to request that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) considers the need for Alternative Education Provision as part of its Section 19 responsibilities. GHES is part of the multi-agency forum that assesses needs of these pupils and supports decision-making on the appropriate intervention for children. GHES is one of the outcome pathways. The referral form for schools is available on GCC website: <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/S19Form>

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Can a private health professional make a referral?

In order to accept referrals from private medical professionals, GHES expect that the young person is receiving ongoing treatment from the private health professional. This is because GHES require regular health updates, plus ongoing treatment means that there is a clear trajectory for improvement in the child's health, so that reintegration can be worked towards. We also need confirmation from the private medical professional that the young person's health, physical or mental, meets our criteria, ie. they are not well enough to attend school at all. If there is no medical professional providing ongoing treatment or care, GHES could cease their involvement.

If a private health professional is not working within these parameters, it may be more appropriate for the school to make a Section 19 referral to request that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) considers the need for Alternative Education Provision as part of its Section 19 responsibilities. GHES is part of the multi-agency forum that assesses needs of these pupils and supports decision-making on the appropriate intervention for children. GHES is one of the outcome pathways. The referral form for schools is available on GCC website: <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/S19Form>

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My child is struggling to attend school – can you help? Are you the right service?

It can be very worrying when your child is struggling to go to school. However, there are lots of strategies that can be implemented to support your child's attendance which can mean that our input is never necessary. Before we accept a referral, we will always explore what has already been



tried. Here are some examples of accommodations that schools have put in place (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Graduated Pathway is being used
- Regular review meetings
- Adult to meet & greet at start of day
- Key adult to check in with
- Time out card
- Accommodations made around sensory sensitivities, e.g ear defenders, uniform allowances
- Safe space to go to
- Access to learning support unit
- Ability to leave lessons 5 mins early to avoid crowds
- Small group / 1:1 teaching
- Part-time timetable
- Reduced number of GCSEs subjects studied
- Ability to access lessons remotely
- Mentor
- Home visits

If appropriate accommodations have been made but have not been successful, then:

- a) where a medical professional (NHS consultant or Core CAMHS practitioner) is providing ongoing treatment for the health condition that is preventing your child's school attendance, they may decide that a referral to GHES is needed.
- b) where there is no medical professional involved, then school are able to make a Section 19 referral to request that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) considers the need for Alternative Education Provision as part of its Section 19 responsibilities. GHES is part of the multi-agency forum that assesses needs of these pupils and supports decision-making on the appropriate intervention for children. GHES is one of the outcome pathways. The referral form for schools is available on GCC website: <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/S19Form>

To meet GHES admissions criteria, a student must be:

- on roll at a mainstream school
- resident in Gloucestershire
- in Reception up to Year 11
- too unwell to attend school **at all**
- well enough to engage with some education

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Are all your lessons online?

We offer a blend of online and face-to-face teaching wherever possible. Typically, for the majority of our students, our core curriculum subjects (English, maths and science) are taught in small online groups. We also have some classrooms at our site in Cheltenham where we can offer some face-to-face lessons, e.g. art, PSHE, Wellbeing.

Sometimes, where the health needs mean that a student cannot access online learning, or for our very youngest learners, we are able to offer some 1:1 teaching in the home.

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My child has just been accepted – what happens now?

- Before GHES provision can commence, we usually ask school to arrange and lead a Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting, inviting GHES and any other professionals involved, so that the most appropriate support and provision can be discussed
- School provides us with the necessary academic baseline information and SEND/Graduated Pathway documents, where appropriate.
- GHES will contact Children's Services, requesting any basic information they may hold to enable us to support and safeguard your child appropriately
- Your child will be allocated a Case Manager who will make contact with you and attend the TAF meeting
- Once the TAF meeting has taken place, the Case Manager will arrange a home visit.

Then, before lessons can begin, your child will need to complete an 'online induction' so that they are ready to access our online lessons and systems. A 'reading induction' is also required to get them set upon our reading platform. Baseline assessments may also be carried out to help allocate your child to the correct ability group. A link tutor will be assigned to your child, who will be your child's key point of contact, and a timetable will be produced and confirmed with you.

The Case Manager will oversee this process which can typically take 3-4 weeks. Timescales can be dependent on how soon meetings are arranged and relevant information gathered.

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How long can a young person stay with you?

As a short-term reintegration service, our aim is to support students until they are well enough to return to school. This can take different periods of time for individuals depending on the nature and severity of their ill-health. GHES remains involved for as long as these health needs dictate and providing that your child is engaging with our provision. Regular reviews take place to confirm that GHES provision remains appropriate and we request ongoing updates and liaison with the medical professionals, enabling us to begin transition planning when the time is right.

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My child does not want to go back to school - can they stay with GHES?

No. We do not offer an alternative provision to mainstream education, so students do not stay with us for the remainder of their education.

Students with GHES are dual-registered, which means they remain on roll at their mainstream setting for the duration of their stay with us. We are a short-term reintegration service that provides education whilst a young person is too unwell to attend school. Our core aim is to support students' transition back to school. Therefore, in order for students to come to GHES, there must be an identified pathway for reintegration. Usually, this is back to their main school. Sometimes, however, we support transition to an alternative educational setting – e.g. different secondary school; special school / alternative provision; or post 16 provision.

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Why has my child's referral been declined?

We may decline for the following reasons:

- If the referral has been made by someone who is not a consultant community paediatrician or a registered clinician of a child in treatment with CAMHS, e.g. GP, private psychiatrist
- If the referral comes from a clinician / paediatrician who is not treating the condition for which the pupil is being referred and there is no treatment pathway in place
- If the child is not a resident in Gloucestershire
- If the child is not on-roll with a mainstream/other school
- If the pupil is being educated at home (Elective Home Education, EHE) due to the child not being on-roll with a mainstream/other school
- The pupil is on roll at a special school
- The pupil has an EHCP (see earlier FAQ)
- If a pupil is attending school, even on a part-time basis, but needs special arrangements put in place (e.g. reduced timetable, leaving lessons early, lessons in a quiet space). Here, it remains the responsibility of the main school to ensure the right support and adjustments are implemented. This may be through an Individual Health Care Plan or through the Graduated Pathway. The LA Inclusion team and Attendance team can also provide advice and guidance for a school about what those adjustments might be.

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What happens if my child does not engage with the support offered?

GHEs always work closely with the medical professionals, parents and other agencies to help a young person to engage with education. We employ a variety of strategies to support a student to attend lessons whilst they are with us. Occasionally, GHEs withdraw tuition when it is not being accessed, to enable us to reallocate staff to other students. The reasons GHEs might cease our involvement are as follows:

- **Due to the child's medical condition.** Sometimes the medical condition is such a student cannot access education. At this point GHEs would cease input and request a new referral is made when the child is able to access education. This is often identified through an inability to engage with our teaching staff, engage in any meetings, despite extensive reviews and changes offered to support engagement.
- **Due to persistent absence or non-engagement for reasons not related to the child's medical condition.** A Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting would take place involving all professionals involved with the child, including the main school. A member of the Attendance Team from the Local Authority would also be included. Those meetings would be held to clearly explain the consequences of persistent absence or non-engagement to the student and family, the possible withdrawal of educational provision from GHEs, and the potential need for legal intervention/prosecutions in the future. It would also remain an opportunity to continue to listen to and understand the barriers to attendance and explain the help that is available to avoid those consequences.
- **Due to non-engagement with medical provision.**
- Where the common view of the multidisciplinary team around the child is that **we are no longer the most appropriate service to make an impact.**

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Do you accept referrals if a student is at a special school?

Special schools are expected to support children with medical needs (who need period of education at home) from their existing budget in all circumstances. Specialist school staff have the specialist skills to best support their pupils on roll. We do provide support for special school pupils who are admitted to GRH from day one. Liaison between the specialist school staff and the teaching staff at GRH is especially important for pupils who have regular admissions.

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Do you accept referrals if a student is at a private/independent school?

Yes we do. As with all schools, we do expect the young person to remain on roll and require the private or independent school to work closely with us to plan appropriate provision and support, and work together towards reintegration. In Year 11 we need the school to make any GCSE exam entries.

Our service is free of charge for the first year. After a year, we charge the school an amount (equivalent to 50% of the AWPUP paid to mainstream schools).

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What is my role as a parent when my child is with GHES?

Whilst your child is with GHES, we ask you to help your child by ensuring they access and attend their educational support package with us; encourage your child to complete homework tasks set and let us know if your child has a medical appointment or is too unwell to attend a lesson.

Our common aim is to support your child return to school, when they are well enough. To help plan for this, every student has a personalised support plan whilst they are with us. This identifies the specific outcomes we are working towards and what GHES, you *and* your child can do to help him/her achieve this.

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