

Medical Education Service (MES) newsletter

Spring Term 2021

Welcome to our first edition of The Medical Education Service (MES) termly newsletter. The MES team provide short-term education to help schools and settings to provide continuity in education when a child or young people has been absent from school for 15 days or more due to a physical or mental health need.

Visit the web page to find an **outline of the new service, how to make a request** and any **relevant documentation**.

<https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/medical-education-service>

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No Isolation AV1

When a pupil can't attend school in person, AV1 by No Isolation takes their place. AV1 is the distance-learning avatar that makes it possible to take part at school via an app on their phone or tablet. Since September, the MES has provided seven AV1s across North Yorkshire. These are being used in Primary, Secondary and Specialist settings, to support children who cannot be in school for medical reasons.

The reasons for Children and Young People using AV1s are varied. One Year 10 student who hasn't been able to attend school since September 2020, has an AV1 to access learning and also social times. Two students are using them due to diagnosed anxiety that prevents them from accessing the classroom. The MES have one Key Stage 2 child who uses the AV1 alongside 1:1 tuition, having recently had a kidney transplant. The AV1 means this child is still very much a part of the school whilst they recover at home. There is also an additional Year 11 student with Leukaemia using an AV1 to continue education with their own teachers.

Another AV1 is being used flexibly to support a Year 3 pupil with significant, complex health needs, which often result in disturbed sleep, leaving her too exhausted to attend school.

The MES plan to offer more AV1s in the coming months when appropriate, both as part of our core and our traded offer to schools.

What do our young people say?

A newly referred pupil who is currently being supported with post 16 learning with an Educational Health Care Plan in place told the MES, “You have helped me right from the start to come out of my shell. Thank you.”

What do our parents say?

After an initial meeting to accept a new referral, one parent said, “*Thank you for your understanding and for including our child in the conversation, which is really appreciated. Throughout this challenging time we have found it frustrating when people have just wanted to talk to us and almost ignored our child. We were feeling a little apprehensive but now we’re really excited to get started with you.*”

What do our schools say?

One Headteacher told the MES “*The AV1 in my classroom has been an absolute lifeline for my pupil. It has meant that he has been able to continue to keep in touch with the class and, when well enough, has been able to access the learning as though he were in the classroom.*”

Success stories

Congratulations to MES English Teacher and Tutor, Andy Ford, for recently completing his CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People’s Mental Health. Andy had to complete two assignments, both

approximately ten thousand words each. Andy said “*It was definitely worth doing the course – there are a lot of Children and Young People out there with diagnosed mental health conditions but that’s probably the tip of the iceberg. A lot of these CYP struggle to manage in school; address mental health concerns and schools would reap the rewards, especially in Year 11 when these learners sit their GCSEs.*”

In House specialist training

The Medical Education Service are fortunate enough to have in house specialists who have already started delivering inset training for the team. Coordinators have already led training sessions in safeguarding, de-escalation strategies and Autism awareness.

Looking after children and young people’s mental health during lockdown...

We all have mental health, just as we all have physical health. “*Being mentally healthy means that we feel good about ourselves, make and keep positive relationships with others and can feel and manage the full range of emotions. Good mental health allows us to cope with life’s ups and downs, to feel in control of our lives and to ask for help from others when we need support*”. Mental Health Foundation.



