



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll at a trust school who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authorities: [Buckinghamshire](#), [West Northants](#), [Milton Keynes](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The SENDCO in each school will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements

Where a pupil is known to have potentially long-term sickness or recurrent bouts of chronic sickness involving periods of absence:

- the SENDCO will contact the Community Paediatrician in order to discuss the management of continuing education, including referral to the local authority's alternative provision(s) if the school hasn't made other arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school and this is needed to ensure the child receives suitable education. Through regular communication and forward planning, unnecessary gaps in education can be avoided.
- The SENDCO will inform parents and carers that other professionals are being consulted about their child's absence from school.

- The SENDCO will take responsibility for supplying the alternative provision with information about the pupil's capabilities, progress and programme of work.
- The school (overseen by the Headteacher) will be active in the monitoring of progress during absence from school, in liaising with other agencies and in the pupil's reintegration.

In cases of unpredictable, acute episodes of health needs resulting in absences from school of more than 15 days, the SENDCO will liaise with appropriate medical professionals as soon as possible to establish whether referral to the local authority's alternative provision is appropriate.

Schools will ensure that pupils, absent from school because of medical needs, are kept informed about school social events and that they are able to participate as fully as possible in the life of the school, for example in homework clubs, study support and liaising with peers through visits and videos.

A child unable to attend school because of health needs must not be removed from the school register even if the local authority has become responsible for the child's education. Continuity is important for children and knowing that they can return to their familiar surroundings and school friends can help their recovery and their educational progress.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If a child cannot attend school due to health reasons, and their illness or injury results in them being away from school for 15 days or more, the local authority is responsible for arranging education if the school cannot make suitable arrangements:

- Buckinghamshire County Council (Bourton Meadow, George Grenville and Lace Hill)
- West Northants Council (Lumbertubs and Spring Lane)
- Milton Keynes City Council (Moorland)

The school will liaise with appropriate medical professionals as soon as possible to establish whether referral to the local authority alternative provision is appropriate.

When a local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Provide the local authority, at agreed intervals, with the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

- Liaise with the alternative provision, in particular provide prompt up-to-date information about records of achievement and the curriculum.
- Ensure that suitable programmes of work are available to pupils receiving home tuition/hospital teaching, that these are consistent with what the child would normally be studying whilst at school and that they take account of the child's views
- Where appropriate, provide resource material to support the programmes of work for the pupil where possible
- Make appropriate contributions to the cost of providing home tuition being a weekly charge equivalent to one-thirty-eighth of the appropriate AWPU for pupils of statutory school age, plus pupil premium where this is applicable
- Meet all examination/test fees on behalf of the pupil
- Make arrangements for 11-plus, National Curriculum Assessments and any other examinations/accreditations
- Provide the funding for invigilators to ensure completion of any external examinations where it is not possible for the pupil to complete the assessment within the school. Invigilation of exams will be funded by the school where the pupil is on roll
- Maintain contact with the pupil and their family
- Take part in planning and review meetings, especially those called to organise reintegration at school.
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school) and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by School Improvement Director. At every review, it will be approved by the trust board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND policy