



Pupils With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

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POLICY

There are some very rare occasions where pupils are unable to attend school due to their health needs. This policy sets out what will happen in these circumstances. These children remain part of our school family and, as a family of learners expecting the best, we aim to be guided by our vision in supporting them during times of absence and return to access appropriate education and enrichment, through our engagement with them, their families and any other agencies as appropriate.

Whilst tailored support is likely to be required in each case, this policy provides framework within which the school will operate.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that children who are unable to attend school due to their health needs are able to access appropriate education.

Please note this policy should be read in conjunction with our Remote Learning Policy.

2. APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all pupils who are absent for 15 or more school days for a medical reason, whether consecutive or not.

3. AIMS

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand the school's responsibilities when education is being provided by the Local Authority

4. LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It is also based on guidance provided by the Department for Education (DfE), which is available at the following link: [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school) and the statutory guidance related to alternative provision, which can be found here: [Alternative provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/alternative-provision).

5. THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The school will ensure that where a pupil is absent for genuine medical reasons for a prolonged period of time they will be provided with appropriate work which they can access from home or, if required, hospital.

6. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Local Authority is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the education children receive is of good quality as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers and allows them to successfully reintegrate back into school as soon as possible
- Addressing the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are not appropriate as they may limit the offer of education to children and prevent access to the right level of



educational support in each specific case. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach the statutory guidance detailed in section 4 of this policy

7. THE PROCESS

Initially, the school will endeavour to make arrangements to deliver a suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. School work may be provided in electronic or paper format as agreed between the child's parent/carer and the school.

The school will also support the child with reintegration back into school life after a period of absence. This might include any or all of the following:

- A phased return to school
- Regular opportunities to review the reintegration back into school with the class teacher and SENDCo
- Sessions with support staff or other professionals
- Alternative timetable
- Increased breaktimes
- Any other reasonable adjustment deemed necessary in a specific case

Where absence is prolonged, or the school is unable to provide suitable educational provision, the Local Authority will be responsible for arranging suitable education for the child.

In these cases, the school will:

- Work constructively with the Local Authority, alternative education providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcome for the pupil
- Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required
- Help to ensure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the Local Authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school environment, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as is possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events, visits to school, and through any other appropriate means in each specific case)
 - Create an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child returning to school
 - Facilitate any reasonable adjustments that may be required to enable the child to return to school

In all cases where a child is absent from school due to health needs, the school will work very closely with the parents/carers throughout the period of absence and reintegration back into school.

8. REVIEW OF POLICY

The Governing Body will review this policy at least every three years. The policy will be revised as required to introduce any changes in regulation and statutory guidance to ensure that it is always up to date.