



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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Next review by: September 2027

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority and government statutory guidance: Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

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](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority

3. The responsibilities of the school

If long term medical conditions are known by the family of the student, an Individual Health Care Plan (IHP) will be completed, following the 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy'. This provides immediate and emergency care for the named student and is shared with all staff working with the pupil.

3.1 School arrangements for students with health needs who cannot attend school

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

- The relevant Year Leader/R2L/SSL Progress Leader/SENCO will liaise with teachers and the student's family to ascertain the student's ability to access and complete work set by school.
- If a student is unable to attend school due to a prior arranged hospital stay, and is well enough to access learning, the school will liaise with families or hospital school settings to elicit available resources such as internet and provide work either online or supply textbooks suited to the student's ability.
- The Year Leader/R2L/SSL Progress Leader/SENCO will coordinate regular feedback relating to schoolwork being provided by the school.
- The Year Leader/R2L/SSL Progress Leader/SENCO will liaise with families and medical professionals to provide an appropriate phased return to school if deemed necessary.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, Milton Keynes Local Authority or the local authority where the child resides, will become responsible for arranging suitable education for the student.

This policy relates to local authorities' statutory duties under section 19 of the Education Act 1996. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of a physical or mental health need, and cannot access suitable full-time education, the local authority is responsible for arranging suitable alternative provision. Schools should seek advice using the following LA document [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.pdf](#)

In this event the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to support best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and would support a successful reintegration to school by
 - allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - enabling the student to stay in touch with school life by arranging access to information such as newsletters, emails, internet and teams links to lessons
 - creating individually tailored reintegration plans for each student returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our 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/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child

- 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)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, 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 the Chief Education Officer. At every review, it will be approved by the Trustee Board.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Supporting pupils with medical conditions