

# **Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school**

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## 1.0 Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

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

## 2.0 Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the statutory requirements of:

Section 19 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

Equality Act 2010

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014

It is also based on guidance provided by the Department for Education dated December 2023 and the 3 local authorities where our schools are located. Their guidance can be found in section 3.2.

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

## 3.0 The responsibilities of the school

DfE statutory guidance makes it clear that:

The majority of pupils who experience medical needs are best provided for in their home school, with appropriate adjustments.

Where the medical needs are so significant that education off-site is required for a period, this should be for the shortest appropriate time to prevent pupils losing their links with friends and to reduce the impact on attainment and progress.

## 3.1 School arrangements

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

- The SENDCo in each individual school will be responsible for making and monitoring these plans.
- Where a pupil is not attending school due to significant health needs the SENDCo will arrange a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting with relevant health professionals, agencies, and parents to determine the probable length of absence and next steps to take.
- If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of a year) or more because of their health needs, the relevant local authority will

become responsible for arranging suitable education for this pupil, please refer to section 3.2.

- Where the absence is less than 15 school days (consecutive or within an academic year) the SENDCO will arrange with the parent for appropriate work to be sent home and liaise with hospital schools and the Local Authority if the pupil is an in-patient on a planned hospital admission.
- The SENDCO will ensure plans for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school are made, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- The SENDCO will 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).
- The SENDCO will ensure regular TAC review meetings are held and plans are made in consultation with the parents and other health professionals to reintegrate the pupil back in to school.
- The SENDCO will create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school in collaboration with health professionals and other school-based staff, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- The SENDCO will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made in liaison with the Director of Education.
- The SENDCO will liaise with the Director of School Improvement in all cases where special arrangements need to be made for a pupil with significant health needs.

### **3.2 Local authority arrangements**

When the pupil has been absent or it is known they will be absent for more than 15 school days (consecutive or within an academic year) or is attending school with significant health needs which are impacting upon their capacity to attend school, the school will obtain medical evidence from the relevant consultant and make a referral to the relevant local authority for support.

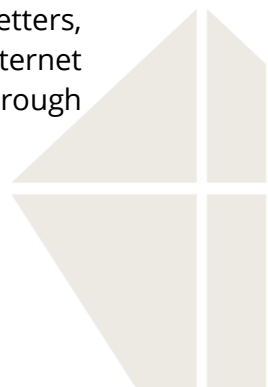
- Schools situated in the Birmingham Local Authority should make a referral to James Brindley. The information regarding this process can be found here: <https://www.jamesbrindley.org.uk/page/?title=Referrals&pid=10>
- Schools situated in the Solihull Local Authority follow their procedures which can be found here:  
<https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2019/02/Solihull-medical-pathway-Feb-2019.pdf>



- Schools in Warwickshire should make a referral to the Flexible Learning Team [Flexible Learning Team - Request for Support \(warwickshire-flt.org.uk\)](http://warwickshire-flt.org.uk)  
[01926 742 459](tel:01926742459)

In cases where the local authority is making the arrangements, the school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, 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;
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- 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
- 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 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, 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, 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; and
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

#### **4.0 Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the CEO. At every review, it will be approved by the full trust board.

#### **5.0 Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies on school websites:

- School accessibility plans
- School policies on supporting pupils with medical conditions

