

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 who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)
- To ensure pupils remain connected to school life and can access appropriate learning opportunities suited to their medical needs.

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2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- [This policy reflects the Equality Act 2010 and the Data Protection Act 2018.](#)

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](#)
- [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' \(2015\).](#)

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Work may be provided through remote learning platforms, in printed format or via video call. The school will also consider ways that the pupil and their family can remain fully engaged with school life including the academic, spiritual and social side of development.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Gloucestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The school will notify the local authority if a pupil is expected to be absent for 15 or more school days (either consecutively or cumulatively), in line with statutory guidance and local protocols.

Where appropriate, a Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be developed jointly with the LA, the school, and relevant medical professionals to ensure a coordinated approach to the child's ongoing education.

When the 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 the arrangements, our 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/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

3.3 Reintegration Plan

When a child is well enough to return, a tailored reintegration plan will be created with the LA, school, and parents.

Plans may include: phased returns, personalised timetables, movement of lessons to accessible spaces, test accommodations, and access to a quiet space in school.

The school nurse or relevant professionals will be consulted if appropriate.

A programme of small achievable goals, social reintegration support, and clear review points will form part of the plan.

For longer absences, reintegration planning will be timed appropriately to avoid pressure on pupils or families. Feedback from the pupil will be sought post-reintegration to evaluate the process.

3.4 Managing Absences

Parents are expected to notify the school on the first day of illness.

The school will liaise with families to arrange educational support where absences are under 15 days.

For longer absences, the school will notify the LA and collaborate to ensure appropriate educational provision begins without delay.

Training and Information Sharing

Relevant staff will be trained to support the medical and educational needs of affected pupils before reintegration.

Parents will be asked to consent to information sharing and be made aware of their rights.

Pupil confidentiality will be respected. Staff will only be informed on a need-to-know basis.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Trust board. At every review, it will be adopted by the LGC

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Medical Needs Policy
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