



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

This policy will be reviewed annually

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Document Author: James Cannon and Jenna Rose

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. The responsibilities of the school	2
4. Monitoring arrangements.....	4
5. Links to other policies	4

Version	Date	Amendments
V0	05/09/2022	New policy, first issue.
V1	01/09/2023	Annual review and update.

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

This policy reflects the local authority's guidance on providing education to children with additional health needs, and the responsibilities it places on school in this circumstance.

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.

- This would include members of the Senior Leadership Team who oversee alternative provision, who are Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Pastoral Support, Safeguarding Lead, and the SENDCO.
- This would include work being sent to hospitals or other centres, or our teachers working in consultation with outside staff.
- We will work with families to provide support and ensure communication is appropriate to maintain strong links between the school, families and the centres.
- Students will be reintegrated back into school with the support of the school, families and external agencies.

If the child is well enough to attend education but mainstream provision is not suitable, school would make a referral to Cherry Tree Learning Centre (CTLC) who are part of Skylark Partnership, providing there is

sufficient medical evidence. Staff at CTLC would decide if this is a suitable learning provision. If the provision is not deemed suitable, school would liaise with Community Paediatric Services (i.e. CAMHS).

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

Dudley LA and medical professionals would work together to secure suitable education for these students, if their absence spans a prolonged period of time.

The Local Authority should:

- › Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- › Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- › Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- › Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- › Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- › Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- › Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The Local Authority should not:

- › Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- › Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- › Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.

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

- › 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
- › 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
 - 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)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher and the SENDCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Special educational needs information report and policy
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety
- First aid
- Equality information and objectives
- Complaints