



Children with Health Needs who cannot Attend School

23-24

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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 is also based on guidance provided by Slough Borough Council under their Medical Needs Policy, Children Who Cannot Attend School. It complies with the statutory guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

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

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education from their normal school that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where a child can still attend school with some support.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

- For the first 15 days of absence the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school
- The Director of Studies (DOS), in consultation with the School Nurse and Inclusion Team, will write an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) in conjunction with the family, medical provider and the child
- The school will liaise with the family and any medical providers to ensure that the child receives appropriate work while they are unable to attend school. This could include sending paper-based work for completion at home, the loan of a laptop so that work can be completed online at home, or liaison with the relevant hospital school to ensure that work is transferred to them for completion. It may also involve home visits by the Learning Continuity Team to support access to learning at home
- The School Nurse will meet with parents, medical professionals and the student (if appropriate) to complete the final plan
- The DOS will arrange a reintegration plan once the student's doctors tell us that this is the right thing to happen. The reintegration plan will be planned in conjunction with medical professionals, the student and the family. The package will be bespoke to the needs of the individual and could include allocation of the Learning Continuity Team to facilitate ease of transition back to school, a part-time timetable, placement in the Pastoral Support Room or Achievements Centre and the allocation of teaching rooms on the ground floor, if deemed necessary

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Slough Borough Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

Where an absence is likely to be longer than 15 days the Local Authority will be involved in arranging provision, the expectation from the school is that the Local Authority will:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education
- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be absent from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child
- Ensure that the education the child receives is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of the individual children in arranging provision
- Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status
- Where appropriate, use electronic media such as 'virtual classrooms', to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision
- Ensure that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to a child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child
- Set up a Personal Education Plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school and other provider can work together
- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (for example, Hospital School, Haybrook College, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health need

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 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 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the student 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 Assistant Headteacher: Inclusion / 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 / statement
- Special education needs policy
- Supporting Children in School with Medical Needs