



Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

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Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for learners on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Learners, staff, and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.
- The school aims to ensure that all learners who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some learners may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, learners should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate learners back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a learner's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners, and families to ensure that all learners with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Legislation and Guidance

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

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010.
- Data Protection Act 2018.
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for learners who cannot attend school because of health needs'.
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting learners at school with medical conditions'. It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

Responsibilities

If the school makes arrangements

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

The principal and SENDCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be held with parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents/carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the learner.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital school or a teaching assistant may attend the home to deliver lessons, work will be prepared by class teachers.

The learner will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the learner may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these learners. The local authority should:

- Provide an education as soon as it is clear that a learner 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 learner. Ensure the education learners 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 learners in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of learners 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 learners with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the learner and that it provides suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for learners and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The local authority should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a learner from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a learner because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a learner can attend school rather than whether the learner is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether they will arrange education for learners or inflexible policies which result in learners going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

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 learner.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the learner is as effective as possible and that the learner 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 learner to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the learner 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 learner returning to school.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

The Directors and Principal are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for learners who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for learners who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of learners are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting learners with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for learners with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, learners, the local authority, key workers, and others involved in the learner's care.
- Providing teachers who support learners with health needs with suitable information relating to a learner's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the learner.
- Notifying the local authority when a learner is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Dealing with learners who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring learner progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying learners' education providers with information about the learners' capabilities, progress, and outcomes.
- Liaising with the principal, education providers and parents to determine learners' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- The SENCO or keyworker will provide a link between learners and their parents, and the local authority.

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of learners' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring learners are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting learners with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their learners through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual learner's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their learner's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

Definitions

Learners who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.

Chronic Illnesses

Learners who are unable to attend school for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the learner is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many local authorities have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and learners on occasions.
- Where learners are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are local authority's establishments that provide education for learners unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following documents:

- Accessibility Plan
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy