

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

1. Statement of Intent

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 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) as the local authority;

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/17403/la-guidance-for-schools-supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs-amended-5917.pdf>

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association, and operates in conjunction with the Trust policies listed in section 6.

3. Definitions

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

- Physical Health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental Health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal Illness
- Chronic illnesses
- Covid-19 – An underlying condition which would not normally prevent their attendance at school, but which causes a critical vulnerability in a time of Covid outbreak.

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1 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. Senior leaders, pastoral staff and/or the 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. Arrangements could include sending work home, attending online lessons or providing alternative resources. Where appropriate, the school will also attempt to help maintain social contact with the young person's peer group. As the arrangement ends, the pupil 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 pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements:

GCC will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children, if the school can't make suitable arrangements,

The LA 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 and ensure:

- There is minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil

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- The education pupils receive is of good quality
- They are able to take appropriate qualifications
- They are prevented from falling behind their peers in school
- They can reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible
- The needs of individual pupils are fully met
- That a named officer is responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is
- There is a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- That they review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

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, the school will 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 virtual 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.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection (GDPR) Policy
- Records Retention Schedule
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.