




Children with Health Needs who cannot Attend School Policy

Person responsible: Head teacher
Ratified by the local governing body: September 2024
Date for review: September 2026



Dr Pip Parmenter
Chair of Governors

Contents

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

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)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

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](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

Where possible, the child's health needs should be managed by the home so that they can continue to be educated there with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Where possible, the school will endeavour to make arrangements to deliver an appropriate education for any child with health needs who cannot attend school, subject to their individual needs and circumstances.

This may involve sending work home or some form of digital remote learning, as appropriate.

The school will consult the child and their parents about these arrangements and, similarly, about how the child might be integrated back into school at the appropriate time.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the circumstances are such that the school cannot make suitable arrangements for a pupil who cannot attend school, the child will be referred to the Local Authority, which has a statutory responsibility for arranging a suitable education for these children (see Section 5 below).

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 appropriate 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
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- 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)
- 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 an individually tailored reintegration plan 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 headteacher. 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

and to:

- Essex County Council's Education Access Team: Children unable to attend school due to health needs (September 2018)