

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Managed by:	Deputy Headteacher, Quality of Education: Curriculum
Policy Approval:	Governing Board
Governor link committee:	Student Success and Wellbeing
Date of Review:	December 2023
Next Review:	Summer 2024

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## 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 the following guidance:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>
- <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-attendance/education-of-children-and-young-people-with-medical-needs.aspx>

### **3. The Responsibilities of the school and the Local Authority**

#### **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.

These arrangements:

- are monitored through the school's vulnerable student leads for the engagement of students with the school's Formal Curriculum. This system is led and managed by the Deputy Headteacher, Behaviour and Attitudes;
- are managed by the vulnerable students leads or the assigned Named Person from the school's staff;
- involve the assigned lead liaising with relevant external agencies (for example, the Cheshire East Medical Needs Tuition Team) and with the parents and children involved; and
- will see most student reintegrate back into school through the House System. However, in more complex cases reintegration will be led and managed by either the Inclusion, Engage or Learning Support Teams with support from the school's Medical Needs Coordinators.

#### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

In the following circumstances the school can refer students to the Cheshire East Medical Needs Team:

- a student has been absent for 15 days with illness or the school is aware that the pupil will be absent e.g. after a planned medical procedure;
- a student's attendance is less than 50% and they have an identified medical need;
- a student has been in hospital and are not well enough to return to school immediately.

This application must be supported by medical confirmation from one of the following health professionals:

- Consultant Paediatrician or Adolescent Psychiatrist;
- Consultant Child Psychiatrist; or
- Hospital Consultant

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, Behaviour and Attitudes. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance
- Equality & Objectives
- Supporting pupils with Medical Conditions
- Special Educational Needs