

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Managed by: Deputy Headteacher, Behaviour and Attitudes

Policy Approval: Governing Board

Governor link committee: Student Success and Wellbeing

Date of Review: October 2025

Next Review: September 2026

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>

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](#)

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 student services (house team) or attendance support team. This system is led and managed by the Deputy Headteacher, Behaviour and Attitudes;
- 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 Progress House 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.
- Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

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.
 - Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
 - Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
 - Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
 - 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)
 - 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 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