

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

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| <b>Reviewed By</b>      | <b>Rebecca Leonard Director of Academy Operations</b> |
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This policy sets our approach to children with health needs who cannot attend school across Bolton Impact Trust

## **1. Aims**

This policy applies to each academy within the Bolton Impact Trust and 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 our local authority.

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

## **3. The responsibilities of the school**

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

- The academy lead will take overall responsibility for ensuring arrangements are in place and the pupil continues to access the curriculum. In some instances pupils may be offered home teaching, if available and appropriate.
- The child's classroom teachers will be responsible for putting together an appropriate set of resources for the pupil. This could be paper based, ICT based resources or remote learning as provided by each individual academy.
- The academy lead will identify an appropriate member of staff to maintain regular contact with the pupil and the parent/carers.
- Pupils will receive regular feedback on their work. This will be given via email, telephone or in person. They will also receive regular welfare calls or home visits.
- A meeting will take place with a member of the academy leadership team, the parents/carers and the pupil when they are ready to return to discuss any adjustments that need to be made and any additional support they any require.
- The trust will have a named contact for the LA which will be the Director of Academy Operations Rebecca Leonard

## **4. The responsibilities of the Local Authority**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bolton local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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
- Liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil
- Ensure the education pupils 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 pupils in arranging provision including having a named officer responsible for the education of children 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 children with additional health needs
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Provide clear policies and guidance on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age

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

## **5. Types of health conditions**

Children may be unable to attend school due to the following types of health needs:

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

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Director of Academy Operations and at every review, it will be approved by the board of trustees.

## **7. Links to other policies**

- Academy Accessibility plans
- Supporting pupils with medical condition