



Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School



Boughton Primary School: An Academy

An Academy

September 2021

An Academy

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:	<i>MRS MARY JAMES</i>
APPROVED:	<i>FGB MTG 6TH OCT 2021</i>
BY:	<i>FULL GOVERNING BODY</i>
TO BE REVIEWED:	<i>SEPTEMBER 2022</i>

At *Boughton Primary School*, the named personnel with designated responsibility for this policy are:

Head Teacher	Key Stage Leaders	Safeguarding Governor
<i>Mary James</i>	<i>Rachael Allen Rachel de Pass</i>	<i>Karen Wilson</i>

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1. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#).

The full guidance underpinning this policy can be found [here](#); this is statutory guidance from the DfE, which Local Authorities must have regard to when carrying out their duty to arrange suitable full-time education for children unable to attend school because of their health.

The duty applies to all children who would normally attend mainstream or special schools, including Academies. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

This policy complies with our funding agreement, and Memorandum and Articles of Association.

2. 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

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, Boughton Primary School will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The class teacher, in conjunction with the Key Stage Leader, will be responsible for making the necessary arrangements. The Head Teacher will monitor these arrangements and provide any support needed to assist the staff in successfully managing arrangements.

Since 2020, following *The Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity (No.2) Direction* (updated August 2021 for the academic year 2021-22), all schools have been required to provide remote education to pupils unable to attend school, due to COVID-19.

Therefore, in the first instance, our arrangements for any child with health needs will mirror those in our Remote Education plan, using a combination of recorded or live-streamed lessons, work sent home either on paper or by email, and platforms/apps in use by the school (e.g. Mathletics).

If a pupil is likely to have a prolonged absence from school, we will consult with the EIPT and the Hospital and Outreach Service, in order to make sure the plan for the pupil is appropriate and matched to their ongoing health needs.

Communication with parents and children will take place via our usual channels: Tapestry, gmail and Google Classroom.

When a pupil is well enough to return to school, we will discuss their reintegration with their parents; some children may be able to come straight back to full-time school, whilst others may need a phased return or staggered timetable to ease them back in.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The guidance states:

The law does not specify the point during a child's illness when it becomes the LA's responsibility to secure for the child suitable full-time education. Schools would usually provide support to children who are absent from school because of illness for a shorter period, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza.

*In some cases, where a child is hospitalised, the hospital may provide education for the child within the hospital and the LA would not need to arrange any additional education, provided it is satisfied that the child is receiving suitable education. More generally, **LAs should be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days**, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged.*

There is no absolute legal deadline by which LAs must have started to provide education for children with additional health needs (unlike for excluded children, where provision must begin by the sixth day of the exclusion). LAs should, however, arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to do so by the first day of absence. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, LAs should make arrangements in advance to allow provision to begin from day one.

Whatever the situation or individual set of circumstances, Boughton Primary School will endeavour to work in the best interests of the child, liaising with parents and other agencies, to ensure that there is minimal disruption to a child's 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, 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 Mary James (Head Teacher) and Karen Wilson (Safeguarding Governor). 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
- Attendance policy
- Inclusion policy
- Equality objectives