

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

“Small School with a Big Heart”

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, parents and staff understand the respective responsibilities of the school and the local authority when education is provided outside of school

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is informed by:

- the **Education Act 1996**, including section 19
- statutory and non-statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE)
- guidance provided by Sheffield Local Authority

This policy operates alongside the school’s funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

Where the school can make suitable arrangements

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to health needs, the school will initially seek to arrange suitable education wherever possible. This may include:

- remote learning in line with the Remote Learning Policy
- access to learning platforms used in school

- adapted or flexible provision to support engagement

The class teacher, supported by the SENCO, is responsible for providing appropriate work and ensuring continuity of learning.

The school will:

- consult with parents and pupils (where appropriate) through meetings, phone calls or online platforms
- regularly review arrangements to support reintegration
- plan and implement a phased return where appropriate, with additional interventions tailored to the pupil's needs

Where the local authority becomes responsible

If it becomes clear that:

- the pupil will be absent for 15 school days or more (consecutive or cumulative), **or**
- the school is unable to make suitable arrangements despite reasonable adjustments

the Headteacher will work with Sheffield Local Authority to consider a referral under the local authority's section 19 duty.

4. Working with the Local Authority

Where the local authority arranges provision, the school will:

- work collaboratively with the local authority, providers, health professionals and parents
- share relevant information to support effective provision
- support continuity of curriculum where possible
- plan for successful reintegration back into school

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the local authority to:

- ensure continuity of learning and curriculum materials
- maintain the pupil's connection with school life
- develop an individual reintegration plan
- consider and implement any reasonable adjustments required

5. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and approved by the Full Governing Body.

6. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Remote Learning Policy