

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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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. Health needs relates to both physical and mental health;
- 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 Portsmouth Local Authority.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the school to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. The school will work to the guidance set out by Portsmouth 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.

- The SENCO is responsible for making and monitoring arrangements for these children
- For a child who cannot access school due to medical needs there will be a stepped approach:

For a short-term absence

Primary: A work pack will be sent home by the child's class teacher. Arrangements will be made on the marking and assessment of this work.

Senior: A work pack will be sent home by the child's Head of House. If the child has access to IT then they can liaise with their class teachers separately.

For a medium-term absence (All years)

If there is medical evidence that the child will not be able to access school for a period of up to four weeks (and in some instances longer) then the SENCO can arrange for a home tutor (provided by the school).

At all times parents / carers will be informed throughout the process and when the time is right arrangements will be made to reintegrate the children back into school.

It may be necessary to use a reduced timetable to support the child's medical needs. Where this is the case, medical evidence must be provided. A reduced timetable should not be used for longer than six weeks and regular reviews should happen.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements or if it is a long-term absence a referral to Portsmouth Local Authority will be made.

If there is medical evidence that the child will not be able to access school for a period longer than six weeks (and in some instances longer) then the SENCO can arrange for a tutor through The Harbour School Medical Tuition. This is arranged through a referral process and medical evidence MUST be provided.

If there is medical evidence that the child will not be able to return to Mayfield and that medical and educational needs would be best met at a medical provision, the school (with parents/carers) can apply for a change of placement through the Local Authority Inclusion Support Panel. The panel will decide if a more suitable provision is needed.

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 Erika Anders, SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Information Report