



Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy



Policy Reviewed: Feb 2024
Policy Approved: March 2024

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 is

also based on guidance provided by the local authority.

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

Our schools are responsible for ensuring that students whose health needs dictate that they cannot attend school receive a suitable education. This is done through a variety of different strategies and plans to try and ensure that each individual receives an appropriate education that allows their health needs and educational needs to be met effectively.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

The school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. In school, the responsibility for making and monitoring arrangements will sit with the SENCO, for students unable to attend school due to their health needs. A specific member of staff will be nominated and be the link professional liaising between parents/carers, the individual student and the school.

The arrangements will be monitored regularly, typically weekly, to support the student and family as much as possible through this period.

There are various arrangements that could be put in place to support a student who is unable to attend school. The following strategies may be used and considered; however, the individual plan will be determined by an individual student's needs.

The following strategies are available:

- Work sent home (paper based)
- Setting of assignments through online learning platforms
- Referral to Alternative Provision for example Shaftesbury High School, if appropriate

Parents/carers and students will each be consulted in these circumstances. They will be consulted on a weekly basis to decide the plan for the next week to support student's needs most effectively. Should students require a longer period of absence from school due to their health needs, a referral to the alternative provision would be discussed. Students will then have an individual re-integration plan back into school based upon their needs. The re-integration plan will be reviewed weekly, in order to decide on the next steps to best support the student moving forward.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

The Local Authority would take over responsibility for providing the education to best meet a student's needs in specific individual circumstances, when they meet specific criteria. The criteria are:

- A Key Stage 3 or 4 student who has been diagnosed with a mental health disorder which has been considered by CAMHS to be chronic and enduring
- A school aged student that is physically unwell for mainstream school and may require home tuition
- A Key Stage 3 or 4 student who is physically unwell for mainstream school but is able to access some education at a Medical PRU setting such as Shaftesbury High School.
- A school aged student that is in hospital

The school will have the responsibility of making an initial referral to the Medical PRU and being present following the referral at any appropriate meetings to ensure that a suitable plan is in place to best meet the student's individual physical and mental health needs and their educational needs.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school and trust 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. Policy Links

This policy links to the following policies

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEN information report
- SEND policy