

Policy Title: Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy	Effective Date:	January 2024
LT Member Responsible: John Rumble	Review Date:	January 2025
Governors' Committee Responsible: Culture and Community		

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

3. Absence from school

The school will only authorise absence from school when there is medical evidence in place. This should be in the form of a written declaration from a medical professional, stating that the child is medically unfit to attend school. In terms of mental health, authorised absence will only be given when the child is under the care of CAMHS.

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1 If the school makes arrangements

When an absence is authorised, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Initially:

- The Head of Year will liaise with the parents to agree arrangements to support education at home. Subsequently, the Pastoral Support Worker will monitor the arrangements and keep in regular contact with parents.
- The alternative arrangements made will depend on individual need but could include:
 - a reduced timetable (for an agreed time period and subject to regular review)
 - work provided via the Online Curriculum. This is available on the school website.
 - an online learning package
 - individual tuition (where additional funding is available to the student)
- When the child is fit enough to return to school, the Head of Year will agree a phased return (if required) and the child will be supported by the Pastoral Support Worker

4.2 If the child is under consultant led care

4.2.1 The school will make a referral to the Medical Needs Education and Reintegration Service using a DART (Diagnostic and Referral Tool). Any referral must include Consultant Clinician level medical evidence in order to be considered.

4.2.2 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 contact from the tutor and tutor group);
 - create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school;
 - consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Head. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Access Plan