



## Children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy is updated and approved by the Governing Body every year

This version was approved May 2022

The next review will be May 2023

Approved: Mrs S Driscoll – Chair of Governors

Approved: Mr F Murphy – Headteacher

*Signed copy held in school*

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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
- 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](#) and the Equality Act 2010.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

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

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

### 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.

When pupils are unable to attend school for a prolonged period (greater than 15 days, whether consecutive or cumulative) arrangements will be made and monitored by the pupil's Learning Leader and Leah Martindale.

The pupil's form tutor/learning leader can request and co-ordinate work to be sent home, ideally electronically, from the pupil's individual subject teacher, as appropriate to the pupil's current health status/ condition. They should also liaise closely with requests from hospital school staff to assist in providing work/guiding then to support the individual pupil where appropriate. Home tuition can only be considered on written evidence from the child's medical consultant if they believe this is necessary to allow the child access to education.

Form tutors and learning leaders should liaise with the pupil's parents on a weekly-fortnightly basis with regards to the level of work their child is able to manage/complete and to discuss their progress (although parents are also able to contact individual subject teachers for more targeted subject feedback).

Schools make a significant difference to a child's educational outcomes by sharing information between other agencies i.e. schools, health services and Local Authorities. They can also ensure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the reintegration is something that is planned for in advance to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Medical advice issued upon a child's discharge, when they might be ready to return to school and whether a part-time/phased return should be considered, must be taken in to account by the school.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Buckingham County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Suitable refers to and takes into account the pupil's current health condition yet is at an appropriate level to develop and extend their learning. Input from parents and medical professionals will be vital in guiding the LA and school as to what they feel is suitable/achievable.

The LA will provide education as soon as it is clear that the child would be away from school for 15 days whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child. Home tuition can only be considered on written evidence from the child's medical consultant if they believe this is necessary to allow the child access to education.

The school will work with the LA and partnership as appropriate, referring to support services via their referral processes as needed. For example, the school can refer to the PRU (pupil referral unit) to request home tuition (with support/evidence from the pupil's medical consultant).

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 Julie Smith. It will be reviewed annually and 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