



Policy for Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School

Policy area:	Education & Standards
Approved by:	Board of Trustees
Approval date:	Jan 2024
Implementation date:	Immediate
Version:	v1
Review cycle:	Every 3 years/as required
Date of next review:	Jan 2027
Publication:	Public

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Aims
3. Responsibilities
 - If the school makes the arrangements
 - If the local authority makes the arrangements
 - Return to school
 - Managing absence
4. Monitoring & review

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ONE Academy Trust aims to support the Local Authority (LA) relevant to each of our schools and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to a hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.
- 1.2 Pupils who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:
 - Physical health issues.
 - Physical injuries.
 - Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
 - Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
 - Progressive conditions.
 - Terminal illnesses.
 - Chronic illnesses.
- 1.3 We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the Local Authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.
- 1.4 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following. It reflects legislation at the time when it was last reviewed. Any changes in legislation will take precedence over anything printed in the policy.
 - [Education Act 1996](#).
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Data Protection Act 2018
 - [DfE guidance](#)
 - [Government Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities](#).
- 1.5 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

1.6 This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Equality & Diversity policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Remote Learning Policy

2. 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

3. Responsibilities

If the school makes the arrangements

3.1 Initially, the school will endeavour to make appropriate arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Any education provided should aim to support good attainment, particularly in English, maths and science.

3.2 The **headteacher** is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents/carers, medical professionals, and the local authority to develop arrangements to meet the pupil's best interests.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and who liaises with parents, pupils, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff responsible for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Providing reports to the LGB on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.

3.3 The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents/carers to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil can cope with it, or part-time education at school. The school will give due

consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.

- 3.4 Where it is anticipated that a pupil is likely to be away from the school for more than 15 days due to their health, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the Local Authority's out-of-school tuition service will be notified by the headteacher or an appointed staff member by email. The email should include the name and contact details of the appointed staff member in the school. The out-of-school tuition service team will discuss the case with the named member of staff, answer any queries and send a copy of their latest referral form if it is appropriate to do so.
- 3.5 Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the local authority to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
- 3.6 For hospital admissions, the headteacher/appointed staff member will liaise with the local authority regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.

If the local authority makes the arrangements

- 3.7 If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.
- 3.8 In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements for out-of-school tuition, 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

Return to school

- 3.9 When reintegration is anticipated, the school will 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
- 3.10 To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the school will consider what reasonable adjustments can be made. The following adaptations will be considered:
 - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the headteacher/inclusion lead.
 - Access to additional support in school.
 - Online access to the curriculum from home.
 - Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms where possible.
 - Places to rest at school.
 - Special arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

Managing absence

- 3.11 The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

- 3.12 The school will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where the pupil has been certified by a Medical Officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- 3.13 A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the local authority has become responsible for their education.

4. Monitoring & review

- 4.1 The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that a policy is in place for supporting pupils with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and school staff. They will ensure that the policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the arrangements that schools make to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- 4.2 The Local Governing Body (LGB) is responsible for ensuring that arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- 4.3 This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the CEO and headteachers. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.