

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 students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

- [Education provision for children unable to attend school due to health needs. Guidance for schools and parents/ carers. September 2024](#)

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

In all cases, effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) is essential to delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.

Service level agreements and/or multi-agency forums may aid this process. This applies whether the student is in hospital or at home. When a student is in hospital, liaison between hospital teaching staff, the LA's alternative provision/home tuition service and the student's school can ensure continuity of provision and

consistency of curriculum. It can ensure that the school can make information available about the curriculum and work the student may miss, helping them to keep up, rather than having to catch up.

Under the Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations 2006; a school can only remove a student who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs where:

- a) the student has been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and;
- b) neither the student nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.

A student unable to attend school because of health needs must not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the student's education. Continuity is important for young people and knowing that they can return to their familiar surroundings and school friends can aid their recovery and their educational progress.

3.1 School arrangements for children with health needs

Schools will refer to the following guidance regarding their responsibilities towards meeting the needs of students through reasonable adjustments and for examples of good practice:

- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE, December 2015)
- Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance (DfE, February 2023)
- Support for pupils where a mental health issue is affecting attendance - effective practice examples (DfE, February 2023)
- **Working together to improve school attendance**, which became statutory guidance from 19 August 2024

The school will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for student with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Headteacher and will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

The school will arrange a planning meeting with parents/ carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. The plan will be signed by parents and school and implemented

Arrangements for students with health needs to access education could include attending a hospital school independent learning using paper copies of work prepared by class teachers and remote learning via Sharepoint, Microsoft Teams and Edulink. In exceptional circumstances online or face to face tuition within the home may be provided.

To support student's educational and social development a re-integration back into school will be prioritised and supported. This support may include special arrangements for break or lunch time, a reduced or staggered timetable or some independent learning in a smaller environment or in the case of physical needs in an accessible room. Occasionally, students may have additional classroom or one to one support from a Teaching Assistant.

Where there are safeguarding concerns regarding a student and there is an increased risk if they are unable to attend school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should ensure that the relevant services are alerted and that there are arrangements in place for regular monitoring of the student's wellbeing.

3.2 LA-arrangements for children with health needs

The responsibilities and duties of LA are set out in statutory guidance issued by the DfE:

Arranging Education for Children Who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Needs

When it becomes apparent that a student's health needs can no longer be met by school and the student has been unable to attend school, or will be unable to do so for 15 days or more, (either cumulative or consecutive) a referral to the Inclusion and Alternative Provision Team (IAPT) for medical tuition may be made.

The referral will be made by school staff using the Medical Tuition Referral Form September 2024 along with the Medical Evidence Form September 2024 or a consultants letter. To ensure the referral is accepted by the IAP team medical evidence from a CHAMS clinician for students with mental Health needs or a specialist consultant for student with other health needs must be provided. The local authority may consider evidence from a GP when this support includes a referral to a specialist service

The referral will be submitted electronically to the IAP team. The Medical Educational Co-ordinator can be contacted at IAPTeam@luton.gov.uk. Telephone 01582 548385.

When the referral has been accepted the school will organise a planning meeting to decide the type of provision. This could be 1:1 online or face to face tuition in the home or in the community i.e. Library, school, small group online or face to face tuition or alternate provision

Where the local authority provide arrangements, the school will:

- Organise and lead six weekly review meetings
- Organise and lead six weekly review meetings involving all relevant parties
- Work collaboratively with the IAP Team, tuition/education providers, health, other support services, the family and student to ensure best possible outcomes are achieved
- Work with all relevant parties to help ensure, as far as possible, students are not educationally disadvantaged due to health needs
- Maintain regular contact with the student/family to ensure the student continues to feel part of the school community Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Work with the education provider, IAP Team, CAMHS and relevant professionals to support the student's reintegration (at the earliest opportunity)
- Work with families to ensure that up-to-date medical evidence is available to ensure support continues to be appropriate
- When made aware of hospital stays, knows a student is returning to school or any other absence, will provide the IAP Team with 10 school days' notice to enable cancellation of tuition within the timescales of terms and condition
- 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each student returning to school
 - Consider reasonable adjustments

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Body

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions