Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

Approved by:	**Date:**
Last reviewed on:	**December 2024**
Next review due by:	**December 2026**

Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Legislation and guidance 2
3. Responsibilities of the school 2
4. Monitoring arrangements 3
5. Links to other policies 3

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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.

It is also based on the policy guidance provided by our local authority, West Northamptonshire.

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

3. 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, until we can ascertain the anticipated length of absence and the complexity of the illness. The types of education we would look to put in place would include:

- Sending work home
- Remote lessons / virtual sessions / work on Microsoft Teams
- Recorded lessons through Oak Academy and other sources
- Interim mentoring/check ins with PIC/SEND/Pastoral staff
- Interim check ins with parents/carers

When the child has recovered sufficiently that they are able to return to school, we will carefully plan the transition using an Individual Healthcare Plan or risk assessment if required.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, or the illness is having a longer-term impact, the school will make a referral to Hospital and Outreach Education, the medical AP who are commissioned by West Northants LA to provide education for these pupils.

The referral will be presented at their admission panel.

If the child becomes dual registered with Hospital and Outreach Education (HOE), then the school will:

- Work constructively with HOE, relevant agencies, and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
    - Share information with the HOE 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 and as soon as possible.

When reintegration is anticipated, work with HOE 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 which may take the form of an Individual Healthcare Plan
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made In line with DDA requirements.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by The SENDCo Ashley Thomson. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions