



Head Teacher: Kerrie L Clowes MA BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH
Deputy Head: Emma E Doyle BA (Hons) PGCE NASENCO
Deputy Head: Sarah L Booker BA (Hons) QTS
Assistant Head: Joel M Edwards MA BA (Hons) PGDE.

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Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Date: July 2026

Review: July 2027





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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 the roles and responsibilities of the school and the local authority
- **There is a clear, timely and coordinated response when a pupil is unable to attend school due to health needs**
- **Pupils continue to receive education that is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs (SEN)**
- **Pupils remain connected to school life and are supported to reintegrate successfully when they are able to return**



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2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and is based on guidance provided by our local authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

This policy is also informed by:

- **Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance: *Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (December 2023)***
- **Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, which places a duty on local authorities to arrange suitable (normally full-time) education for pupils who cannot attend school due to illness or other reasons**
- **The Equality Act 2010, which requires schools to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities or health needs**
- **The Children and Families Act 2014, particularly in relation to pupils with SEND and EHCPs**

3. The Responsibilities of the School

As a school, we will follow the guidance set out by the relevant local authority and work in partnership with families and professionals to ensure continuity of education.

3.1 General Responsibilities

The school will:

- Provide support for pupils who are unable to attend school for short periods due to illness
- Maintain regular communication with parents/carers and the pupil
- **Ensure that any provision put in place is appropriate to the pupil's needs and enables them to access education as far as their health allows**



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- **Ensure safeguarding arrangements remain in place when a pupil is educated off-site, remotely or at home**
- **Work collaboratively with parents, carers, health professionals and the local authority to secure the best possible outcomes for the pupil**

3.2 Where the school is able to make arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for pupils with health needs who cannot attend school.

These arrangements will be facilitated by class teachers and monitored by the SENDCo.

Provision may include:

- Sending appropriate work or curriculum materials
- Use of online learning platforms
- Liaison with hospital school teams or other providers

When making provision, the school will ensure that:

- **Education is as close as possible to that provided in school, taking into account the pupil's health needs**
- **Provision is suitable to the pupil's age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs (SEN)**
- **Medical advice is considered when determining the type, amount and delivery of education**
- **Provision is reviewed regularly and adapted as necessary in response to the pupil's progress and health needs**

Where appropriate, the school will also ensure that the pupil:

- **Remains in contact with peers and staff**
- **Continues to feel part of the school community**



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3.3 Working with the Local Authority

Where it is clear that the school cannot provide suitable education, the school will liaise with the relevant local authority to request additional support or alternative provision.

The school will also liaise with the local authority where it is clear that a pupil's absence is likely to be prolonged (15 school days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative), in line with statutory guidance.

In these circumstances, the school will:

- Share information about the pupil's needs, attainment and current provision
- Work collaboratively with the local authority, health professionals and parents
- Support the planning and implementation of suitable provision

The school recognises that the legal duty to arrange suitable education for pupils who cannot attend school rests with the local authority where suitable provision cannot be made by the school.

3.4 During Local Authority Provision

Where the local authority arranges provision, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority and providers
 - Share curriculum information and resources
 - Support the pupil to maintain a connection with the school
 - Monitor the effectiveness of provision alongside the local authority
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3.5 Reintegration

Following a sustained period of absence, a reintegration programme will be established.

This will:

- **Be individually tailored to the pupil's needs**
- **Be developed in partnership with parents, the pupil and relevant professionals**
- **Include a phased return where appropriate**
- **Consider any reasonable adjustments required under the Equality Act 2010**

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo and approved by the governing board.

In addition:

- **Provision for pupils unable to attend school due to health needs will be reviewed regularly (at least termly or more frequently where required)**
- **The quality and impact of provision will be monitored by the SENDCo and senior leaders**
- **Safeguarding arrangements for pupils educated off-site will be regularly reviewed**
- **Reintegration plans and outcomes will be monitored to ensure successful return to school**