



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

October 2024

Document Monitoring			
This policy will be reviewed annually by a member of SLT At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.			
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Contents

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

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/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
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the school

The class teacher of the pupil will be responsible for preparing work and sharing this with Parents/Carers. The SENCO, will be responsible for monitoring these arrangements and supporting the class teacher

- A meeting will be made with Parents/Carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital.
- A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions, the plan will be signed by school and Parents /Carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child.
- The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.
- If a reduced timetable is agreed between school and parents, the relevant paperwork will be completed and submitted to the Attendance Team at Coventry City Council.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The SENCO, in conjunction with the child's class teacher (primary) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- This could be by sending work home or liaising with the hospital schools service
- Parents/ carers and children will be fully consulted on these arrangements via an initial meeting and then subsequent follow up conversations either over the phone, via email or face-to-face
- A staggered reintegration plan will be put into place when the child is able to return to school.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Coventry City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children When the local authority arranges

alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

- In the event that in-school provision is deemed not suitable, the Headteacher/Inclusion Lead will initiate contact with the Local Authority should the need arise. This will be in collaboration with parents/carers. The first point of contact will be the school's designated EHC Plan Co-ordinator, within the Statutory Assessment and Review Services.
- A representative from school will attend all meetings with the Local Authority in relation to the provision. This may be the Class Teacher SENCO or Headteacher.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions