
INVICTUS

Education Trust



Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Document Control and Version Control

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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 is based on the following legislation:

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

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department of 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. <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/early-years-and-childcare/for-providers/supporting-children-with-medical-conditions/>

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

We adhere to [DfE guidance](#) to ensure a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

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.

Ms Lacie Faux (Assistant Head for Inclusion) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements

- We will aim to do all we can to ensure children who cannot attend school due to their health needs are provided
- with a suitable education. This includes sending work home.
- We will consult with parents and pupils about these arrangements and ensure regular (at least weekly) telephone
- and/or email communication
- We will aim to reintegrate the child to school as soon as they are able. This will be led by each individual circumstance.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't 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 one academic year and is attributable to one illness or condition) or more because of their health needs, Dudley Local Authority will also become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

When a 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 line with DfE guidance, the child must receive suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) and be suitable for their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs or disabilities they may have.

Local authorities should ensure that the education they receive is of good quality, as defined in the Department for Education's statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

Schools will work in partnership with their local authority to address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.

Ms Pippa Laight will be responsible for making a referral to the school's local authority.

The Dudley LA contact is: Jane Dickens jane.dickens@dudley.gov.uk.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies, parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Provide the local authority, at agreed intervals, with the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- 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)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- 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
- 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - 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 includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust Board (template) and Executive (Bespoke).

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance policy