



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

As a school that respects the rights of the children and adults in our school family, community and beyond, we aim for each school policy to adhere to articles from UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In this policy, we are working towards the following article:

Article 15 (Freedom of association): Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as it does not stop other people from enjoying their rights. In exercising their rights, children have the responsibility to respect the rights, freedoms and reputations of others.

Article 28: (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Adopted: September 2023

Date to be reviewed: September 2024



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

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/education-and-childcare/educational-specialist-services/education-for-children-with-medical-needs>

The responsibilities of the school

The governors will ensure that:

- Arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented
- A termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their medical needs
- The roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all
- Robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities
- Staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Working collaboratively with parents and carers and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved, and acted upon and reviewed in a timely manner
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents and carers, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's

care. The member of staff responsible for pupils with healthcare needs at Little Hill Primary School is Claire Worthington.

- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil
- Providing reports to governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils
- Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs

make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school including remote learning, home tuition, support for wellbeing needs and attendance at hospital school.

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parent and carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- 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 without unnecessary delay
- 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
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Role of the Named member of Staff (see above)

- Supporting pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school
- Supplying pupils' education providers e.g. hospital school with information about the child's capabilities, interests, progress and outcomes
- Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers and

Teaching staff role

- Designing lessons and activities, whether in school or online, in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency
- Keeping parents and carers informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school

Role of the local authority

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

It is the responsibility of the local authority to arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education. They should provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.

They must ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

Role of parents

If their child is too unwell to attend school they will notify the school on the first day of the child's absence or in advance - if a medical appointment or operation is planned. The school will then notify the Inclusion service team if the absence is likely to be 15 days or more.

If applicable provide evidence from health professionals. Give permission, to contact the key health professionals, that support the child, to identify the best way to engage them in education and re-integration back into school.

Provision

If the child can't go to school because of their medical needs, the school will contact the Inclusion service to seek advice. The options available could include:

School providing work at home

Getting education at the hospital if they are in-patient, or

We may arrange education outside school that may include:

home tuition

access to a hospital school

a Virtual School or

any combination depending on the needs of the child

Where education is provided outside of school, families will have access to an education officer. They will keep them informed of the education offer, co-ordinate the education and reviews with the school/health/other agencies and enable support for the child to re-integrate back into school.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority 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
- monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.
- A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the academy register without parental consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the pupil's education.
- Whilst a pupil is away from school, the academy will work with the LA and the Welfare Officer to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school by:
 - home visits to the students.
 - regular review arrangements so that the parent and child's voice is regularly heard.
 - When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, academies will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA.
 - As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
 - Academies will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the academy and the curriculum for the pupil.
 - A reintegration plan will be developed. For longer absences, near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents or carers in the early stages of their absence.
 - We are aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents or carers and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

Academies will ensure a welcoming environment and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

Information sharing

- It is essential that all information about pupils with health needs is kept up-to-date.
- To protect confidentiality, all information-sharing techniques, will be agreed with the pupil and their parent or carer in advance of being used.
- All teachers, TAs, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures, via the agreed academy procedures.

Training

- Staff will be trained in a timely manner to assist with a pupil's return to school.
- Once a pupil's return date has been confirmed, staff will be provided with relevant training before the pupil's anticipated return.
- Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required.
- Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are confident in their ability to support pupils with additional health needs.
- Parents or carers of pupils with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff.

This policy links to the following policies:

Supporting pupils with medical conditions