St Chad's
Academies Trust

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy
2026

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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/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

St. John's aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by

- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes the arrangements

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

The Head of School, Family Support Worker and SENDCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. 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 from the discussion, the plan will be signed by academy and parents / carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital school, a LSP may attend the home to deliver lessons or work will be prepared by class teachers.

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into the academy with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into the academy on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the academy can't make suitable arrangements, Sandwell Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

The LA should:

• LAs should work with schools to support pupils with medical conditions to attend full time. LA has a duty to make arrangements for pupils who cannot attend fulltime because of their health needs when it is clear that a child will be away for 15 days or more across a school year, whether consecutive or cumulative.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf

• Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.

• Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.

• Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

• Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.

• Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.

• Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.

• Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

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

Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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

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
- 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
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head of School. At every review, it will be approved by the full combined local academy committee.

Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting pupils with additional health needs, and to parents and pupils themselves.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy