

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Shenfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School



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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

2. Legislation and guidance

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

It is also based on guidance provided by the DfE:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ce6a72e40f0b620a103bd53/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf>

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

If your child cannot attend because of illness or injury, your school and local council will provide support to make sure their education does not suffer.

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, we will liaise with the parent/carers. The plan/support put in place will be based on individual cases/circumstances.

The school will:

- let the local council know if your child is likely to be away from school for more than 15 school days
- give the local council information about your child's needs, capabilities, and the programme of work
- help them reintegrate at school when they return
- make sure they are kept informed about school events and clubs
- encourage them to stay in contact with other pupils, for example through visits or videos

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Essex County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

If your child's going to be away for a long time, Essex County Council will make sure they get as normal an education as possible. This could include arranging:

- home teaching

- a hospital school or teaching service
- a combination of home and hospital teaching

The local council must make sure your child continues to get a full-time education - unless part-time is better for their health needs. This will be organised on an individual case/circumstance.

The local council should also:

- have a senior officer in charge of the arrangements and a written policy explaining how they'll meet their responsibilities
- make sure your child is not without access to education for more than 15 school days
- arrange education from the start of your child's absence if it's clear they're going to be away from school for long and recurring periods

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 local governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions and administration of medicines