



# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

**Approved by:** Full Governing Body **Date:** July 2024

**Next review due by:** July 2025

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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 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](#)

### 3. Responsibilities of the school

Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions. Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils, and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported. 3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Governing bodies should ensure that all schools develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and school staff. Schools may be informed by a parent or healthcare professional of a child/young person's medical needs; however, schools should make efforts to be aware of all children with a medical condition. Schools should make use of their own enrolment process and in year admissions processes to ask for medical information, even if they have received information through the admissions process. The school needs to recognise that any measures to identify pupils with medical conditions for their safety should be proportionate and consider confidentiality and emotional wellbeing and not be used to discriminate against the child or young person. 6 All pupils with a medical condition will require a meeting to discuss the pupils individual medical support needs. This may be as part of the induction or admissions process.

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. If students are unable to attend school due to a medical need there is a range of things Cambridge can put in place. Including:

- › Atlantic and Pacific Pod leaders in the first instance
  - Online learning, Google Classroom, Outreach tutors, support for parents
- › Meetings and family members
- › Reduced timetables, designated mentors and therapists
- › Time out of class initially
- › Use of sensory room and porta cabin

### **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, LBHF 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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)
- › 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 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. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Alan Campbell, Headteacher .At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- First Aid Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education