

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Policy

2025/2026

EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY WITH INTEGRITY

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

It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority and DfE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

Special educational needs and disability code of practice explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. For pupils who have medical conditions that require EHC plans, compliance with the [SEND code of practice](#) will ensure compliance with this guidance with respect to those children.

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions – [Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England](#)

[Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#) December 2023. This guidance outlines how local authorities and schools can best support children who cannot attend school because of physical or mental health needs.

Schools also need to be aware of their responsibilities when mental health issues are impacting on a child's attendance. [DfE guidance February 2023](#)

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

Where a child or young person is likely to be absent for 15 or more school days (cumulative) due to an illness (physical or mental health), school is required to inform the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer using the medical notification form. School must include an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) when submitting the referral.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school for medical reasons the local authority will work alongside schools, parents, health and other professionals to provide an alternative education provision to meet a pupil's individual needs to enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system. The school follows Salford's Graduated Approach for Attendance.

As part of the interface with these children and their healthcare needs all professionals should maintain awareness of potential safeguarding/child protection concerns and refer to the relevant service if appropriate.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

- The SENCO and Pastoral leads will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- The sort of arrangements that could be made (e.g. sending work home, hospital schools)
- Parents will be consulted through school communication lines including face-to-face meetings, telephone calls and email of these arrangements
- Pupils will be reintegrated through reduced timetables, phased returns and through Key adults. This will be arranged on a Individual needs basis.

- A part-time timetable must only be in place for the shortest time necessary and not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement should have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time, either at school or alternative provision. There will also be formal arrangements in place for regularly reviewing it with the pupil and their parents. In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must treat absence as authorised.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Salford will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school and trust 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
- 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 SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full board of trustees.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions Policy
- Safeguarding and child protection Policy
- Young carers Policy
- Attendance Policy