



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Reviewed on:	November 2024
Next Review:	Annually
Staff Responsibility:	Inclusion Lead SENCo's Headteacher

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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 has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- 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'

It also based on guidance provided by Milton Keynes Local Authority.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Children who are unable to attend school because of their medical needs may include children with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.

- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

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

- The Attendance Team at Russell Street School will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- The **class teacher** will arrange the communication of work and appropriate resources to ensure continuity
- The **class teacher** will make weekly contact with parents

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Milton Keynes Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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
- 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

Dawn Robinson (Headteacher) / David Thompson (SENDCo) will review this policy annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Inclusion Policy