



Meole Brace
C of E Primary School and Nursery

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Policy: Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School	Date Policy reviewed/adopted: September 2024
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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](#), [DfE \(2013\) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'](#) and [DfE \(2015\) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'](#) and ['working together to improve school attendance' \(2024\)](#). It also based on guidance provided by Shropshire Local Authority: [School attendance or exclusion | Shropshire Council](#).

3. The Responsibilities of the School and the Local Authority

3.1 School Arrangements

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

- The child's class teacher will arrange for home/hospital learning to be shared with parents/carers. This can be delivered to the home or collected from school.
- Home Visits or Video Calls will be arranged as an opportunity for relationships to be maintained with school staff and/or children and as part of our safeguarding duty of care.
- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA. The Headteacher will work with the LA to make and monitor the arrangements.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- We will consult parents/carers/medical professionals/social workers/LA where needed to develop arrangements for the young person's individual needs.
- Where possible, we will plan a personalised approach to support the young person's reintegration to school. We will consider anxieties and other parameters to ensure the young person is supported well in their transition back into school. This may include staggered arrival and departure times, reduced timetable, external provisions.

3.2 Local Authority Duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery will support the LA in doing so.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- Liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements compliant with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate and suitable for the child.
- 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 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, the school will 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. Reduced Timetables

Schools have a statutory duty to provide a full-time education for all pupils, however in exceptional circumstances, a child's health need might prohibit them from attending school full-time, in which case a reduced timetable may be considered to support them in accessing a more full education.

In such circumstances, the school will:

- Ensure the child's parents/carers are in agreement with the reduced timetable.
- Ensure any reduced timetables are in place for no longer than 6 weeks.
- Consult all professionals/agencies involved.
- Ensure agreement from the local authority SEND team for children with SEN who have an EHC Plan.
- Ensure agreement from the Virtual School of the placing authority for looked-after children.
- Follow Shropshire's Medical Needs guidance.
- Complete a full risk assessment before implementing any reduced timetables.
- Complete a clear action plan for improving education and addressing any identified issues.
- Notify the Education Access Service of any pupil on a reduced educational provision.
- Refer to/follow its Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy and Remote Education Policy.

A reduced timetable will not be implemented where there are safeguarding concerns such as risk of Child Exploitation, a child is subject to CP planning or subject to a multi-agency strategy.

5. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Complaints Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

- Special Educational Needs Information Report and Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Remote Education Policy