



## Children with health needs who cannot attend school

### Version Control

Review cycle: Bi-annual basis or in the light of any relevant legislative changes or updated guidance

Next Review Date: Summer Term 2027

School Version	Date Amended	Amends/Actions	Date Adopted
	20/03/2022	Applied style formatting	Spring Term 2022
	18/03/2024	Legislation and guidance updates	Summer Term 2024

# 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 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](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

## 3. Responsibilities of the School

Children unable to attend school because of health needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.

### 3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

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

- Mrs Heidi Garnett and the pastoral team are responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- This could include online tools such as 'Seesaw' that is used across the school and allows interaction, assessment and feedback or printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, for pupils who do not have suitable online access.
- Decisions will always be made in conjunction with parents' wishes and with the guidance of outside agencies where relevant. Meetings will be held on a regular basis to set up and review provision.
- Children will be reintegrated back into school when appropriate, and may include; an adapted curriculum, a modified timetable, support from the pastoral team and where appropriate, support from the SEND team.

### 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, Liverpool City Council 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 6th 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.

- Education from the school would be unsuitable if the child was unable to attend school due to medical reasons for a substantial period of time.
- Local authorities should provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- The school would make a referral to the local authority HRET team

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 the school SENCO. 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

