

Sunning Hill Primary School



Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

October 2024

Linked Documents: Safeguarding Policy, Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, Home School Agreement. KCSiE 2023 & 24

Governing Body Review date: October 2025

Children with health needs who cannot attend school POLICY

General 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

Sunning Hill Primary School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within the school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

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](#)

The responsibilities of the school

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The Head Teacher and SENDCO/DSL will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

A meeting or telephone discussion will be made with parents after the child has been absent for more than 5 days to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital (if this is appropriate).

Delivery of education could be through:

- Remote learning
- Sending work home
- Liaising with Hospital schools

Work will be prepared by the class teachers if required. The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative spaces for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

- The class teacher will be responsible for making the arrangements.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team will monitor the arrangements.
- Learning will take the form of paper-based and/or ICT based resources.
- The class teacher or SENCO will consult parents/carers at least every week to discuss the arrangements in place and any additional support.
- Regular reviews will be arranged to determine whether the child is well enough to engage with learning tasks and the quantity / type of learning. If adaptations can be made these will be discussed between the class teacher, child and parents.

The school will keep in regular contact with family to ensure they are supported and provide calls every week (if appropriate). If a child is absence from school for a significant period of time (4 weeks+), where appropriate,

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school will ensure children are able to communicate with their friends. This could be via letter, video or telephone call and/or a short visit. When the child returns to school a tailored reintegration plan will be devised and consideration of whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Local authority arrangements

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

The LA should:

- 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, 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 to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- 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, 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)
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

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Absences

Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness. Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.

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The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of more than 5 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part-time education at school.

Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the parents to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.

The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

The Local Authority guidance can be accessed here [Education of pupils with medical needs – Bolton Council](#) there is also a separate NHS policy that identifies the Core Duties of the Local Authority <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/downloads/file/5667/medical-policy>

Our school aims to support all families and the wider community. Any queries or concerns regarding individual policies will be considered on an individual basis.