



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Approved by: Governing body **Date:** May 2025

Last reviewed on: April 2026

Next review due by: Under review September 2026

History of policy changes

Date	Version	Change	Origin of change e.g. change in legislation, request by TU	Changed by
13.05.25		No change		SLT

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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 our school is responsible for when 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.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/17403/la-guidance-for-schools-supporting-pupils-withmedical-needs-amended-5917.pdf>

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Pastoral Team and SENDCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending online lessons or providing alternative notes and resources. Where appropriate the school will also attempt to maintain social contact with the young person's peer group.

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times, or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements Gloucestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children:

- 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. They 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, 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 named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

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

This policy will be reviewed annually by Martin Watkins, Assistant Headteacher. 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