

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy



The Cottesloe School

Policy Type:	Non-Statutory
Reviewed by:	Mr D Fox (Deputy Head), Ms C Stirk (Policies Governor) and Mr R Henry (Assistant Headteacher - Student Character)
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1. Aims

This policy is to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.
- Use of external agencies to provide educational support is monitored and attendance tracked.

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](#)

[Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

[School attendance and supporting children in education | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

3. The Responsibilities of the School

The school will provide learners with work that allows them to access the core skills and knowledge required in order to give them foundational concepts that will support a successful return to school following a period of absence due to health or medical reasons. If the absence is long term, the school will explore the use of external agencies, and liaise with Buckinghamshire Council.

This policy is applicable for students who have an identified long-term health or medical condition(s) requiring additional school support eg. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. The school may seek relevant medical evidence as necessary. This may include appointments, reports, consultant's letters etc. This is in order to enable the best provision and individualised support to be designed. We may need this evidence to work with Buckinghamshire Council on any further support plans.

The school will liaise with parents and initially provide work. Should a parent wish for more in the first instance or over time then this can be amended as part of the monitoring process. Work will be set via Google Classroom.

The school will monitor attendance of a student who is not able to attend school for health or medical needs, and is receiving external agency educational support (e.g. home tuition).

4. The process is:

Home alerts the school attendance officer to the long term medical issue that is preventing school attendance.

Discussions are undertaken with parents, staff and any external parties. This establishes the concerns, the length of absence, the school involvement, and any external party involvement required.

For longer term absence the school will contact Buckinghamshire Council and seek additional support services as required via the Educational Entitlement Team.

The monitoring of this provision will involve all relevant parties. These may include the school SENDCO, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Head of Year, Curriculum Leaders, and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

We will consider a gradual approach to reintegration and will work with parents to formulate a personalised plan. This could involve time in the Learning Support Room, or a personalised timetable, and where suitable utilising external agencies and support. Any return plans will be carefully monitored and reviewed with parents and adjusted as necessary.

4.1 If the School Makes Arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children where a senior medical practitioner has diagnosed the child medically unfit for school.

Where necessary, the school will seek support from the Educational Entitlement Team at Buckinghamshire Council, CAMHS and other external agencies and organisations to coordinate the necessary educational provision.

4.2 If Buckinghamshire Council makes 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, Buckinghamshire 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.

In cases where Buckinghamshire Council makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with Buckinghamshire Council, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
- Share information with Buckinghamshire Council and relevant health services as required.
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student 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 Buckinghamshire Council to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the student 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.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

SEND Accessibility Audit and Plan
Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy
Attendance Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, in accordance with review guidelines / expectations (earlier if any materially important or legislative changes occur).