

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs. Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

  - ➢ Physical health issues
  - ➢ Physical injuries
  - ➢ Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
  - ➢ Emotional difficulties or school refusal
  - ➢ Progressive conditions
  - ➢ Terminal illnesses
  - ➢ Chronic illnesses

- Students, 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 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

3. The Responsibilities of the School

- We should notify the Trafford Pupil Absence Team when a child is absent for a period of 15 days. However, the student must remain on roll at the Academy. The school will make arrangements with the local authority to ensure that the child accesses suitable education.
- The school will update the IHCP (Individual Health Care Plan) as appropriate.
- In the event that there is a significant change in the condition of the child or the attendance declines, the school will notify the Trafford Pupil Absence Team

3.1 If the School Makes Arrangements

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

The Attendance and Inclusion teams will work together to create bespoke packages for students which may include:

- Alternative provision
- Reduced timetables and/or modified days
- Online home learning
- Liaison with health and/or social care professionals
- Liaison with the Trafford Pupil Absence Team

It is important to note that the law does not define full time education but children with health needs should have education which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school.

In all cases, consultation will take place with parents/carers and children.

On review of the child's medical needs, the plan will be adapted to enable suitable reintegration to the school, in consultation with professionals, parents/carers and children.

3.2 If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

After 15 days of absence, the local authority must arrange suitable education for a child who is too ill for school. This can be full-time or as much as their health allows, and options include a home tutor, online learning, or a specialized unit. The school should have already made a medical referral, and the authority will process this to make arrangements without unnecessary delay.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the local authority 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, work with the local authority 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 and links to Google Classrooms for each subject)
- ➢ 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. At every review, it will be approved by the Full Governing Board.