



# Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Date Agreed by the governing body:
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Review Date: April 2025

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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

# 2. Legislation and guidance

Key legislation covering the duties and powers relating to this policy:

- Section 19 of the [Education Act 1996](#), as amended by section 3a of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority [The Education of Children and Young people who are unable to Attend School due to Medical Needs](#) (May 2022)

# 3. The responsibilities of the school

Oxfordshire County Council expects that all schools will work in partnership with it to ensure continuity of access to education for all children unable to attend school because of serious illness or injury.

## 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, which includes:

- Having an illness which will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year and where suitable education is not

otherwise being arranged

- Having a health need and their absence has been validated as necessary by a medical professional, either a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

Parents/carers will be consulted throughout any arrangement.

The headteacher will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

### 3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, a referral to Oxfordshire County Council will be made in line with the The Education of Children and Young people who are unable to Attend School due to Medical Needs policy. The local authority are then responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

All referrals must be verified, in writing, by a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from Child and Mental Health Adolescent Services (CAMHS). This should indicate:

- if the child/young person is unfit for school
- for how long support might be required
- a recommendation on the number of teaching hours the young person is able to manage based on their state of health
- an outline of what medical intervention is currently in place

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 the 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