

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



ELSTOW  
SCHOOL

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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

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'

This policy is also based on guidance provided by the local authority

<https://www.greys.beds.sch.uk/hospital-education/>

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

## 3. The responsibilities of the school and Local Authority

### 3.1 The school's arrangements

Initially, the school will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The best interests of the pupil will always be considered. This will be in terms of their health (including any mental health issues) and seeking to enable them to achieve the best possible academic outcomes.

- The class teacher will initially identify and raise as a concern any pupil who may need to be provided with education outside of school due to health needs.
- Initially work which can be completed independently at home may be provided by the school and will be set and sent home. Phase lead will take responsibility for liaising with class teachers, collating work, consulting with parents and monitoring these arrangements.
- If the child has a prolonged stay in hospital, a member of the pastoral team will contact the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to discuss appropriate support.
- If the pupil cannot return to school and the arrangement appears to be needed for a longer-term arrangement (more than 15 days) then support will be requested from the Hospital Education Team at Greys Education Centre by emailing the school referral form to [earlyhelphub@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelphub@bedford.gov.uk). The referral form is available here: <https://www.greys.beds.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/School-Referral-Form-2022-NEW.doc>
- A member of the pastoral team will organise the completion of an Early Help Assessment (EHA) in liaison with the pupil, their family and relevant medical practitioners. If the child is open to

children's services, then the matter will be discussed with the EWO as an EHA may not be required in these circumstances.

- School will work closely with the pupil and their family in order to make arrangements that are suitable to and work well for all parties (pupil, family, The Medical Needs Team and school). This may be for example arranging the frequency and number of tutor sessions, subjects to be studied, where the pupil should be tutored, ensuring the setting of robust work and that there is close liaison between the Hospital Education tutors and school teachers in terms of content of study and desired outcomes.
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life, for example through newsletters, emails, and invitations to school events.

**The school will also:**

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required and necessary in order to fulfil statutory duty.
- 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 where possible, including the provision of tailored reintegration plans and consideration of whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

**3.2 The local authority (Bedford Borough) responsibilities:**

- Providing support, advice /guidance and training to schools and their staff to ensure Individual Healthcare Plans are effectively delivered.
- Working with schools to ensure pupils attend full-time or make alternative arrangements for the education of pupils who need to be out of school for fifteen days or more due to a health need and who otherwise would not receive a suitable education.
- Taking responsibility for the suitable education of pupils in cases where the school is unable to make such arrangements.

**4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Principal and Chief Education Officer and approved by the Board of Trustees.

**5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions