

**GUILSBOROUGH MULTI ACADEMY TRUST****Policy for Children with health needs who cannot attend school**

Policy Name	Policy for Children with Health Needs Who cannot attend school
Owner	SENDSCO & SLT link
Statutory	No
Authorisation	Ratified by Board of Trustees

Date Ratified	Review Date
April 2025	April 2026

Changes made to the policy / document

Review Date	Page Number	Details of changes made
3/3/2025	2 of 3	Identification of restraints on the Academy for supporting students offsite

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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 reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/early-years-schools-and-education/how-schools-support-children-medical-needs>

And also the government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

3. The responsibilities of the school

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 Principal is responsible for the education and wellbeing of any children with health needs who cannot attend school.

If a pupil is unable to attend school due to health needs, the SENDCo or key staff from the Inclusion and Pastoral teams will arrange a meeting with parents, any medical professionals and if appropriate the local authority to discuss arrangements and agree a suitable plan. An Individual Healthcare Plan is important to ensure that the school knows how to handle a medical emergency with the child and that it is providing the right support for a child on an ongoing basis. This will be continually reviewed and the school will seek advice on this from medical professionals involved with the young person. If the child is in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan the academy will liaise with the case worker or relevant member of the LA EHCP team as required.

The school will make arrangements best suited to the circumstances of the child, these might include: an adapted timetable, sending/emailing work home, remote/blended learning, making use of the Hospital and Outreach provision. Additional funding may need to be sought to support a place at Hospital and Outreach. All arrangements for the provision of education will be made in consultation with the child (if of a suitable age), the parents/carers and medical professionals. Support that is put in place is subject to various restraints on the Academy however it will put into place the best possible provision that it has both physical and financial capacity to offer.

The aim, in all cases, is to reintegrate children back into school as soon as they are fit to do so. Transition arrangements might include: home visits from key staff, part-time timetables, support in lessons from a member of support staff.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, West Northamptonshire Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.



The suitability of arrangements made for a child with health needs who cannot attend school are agreed on a case-by-case basis. Decisions are made in consultation with the Local Authority, the child (if of a suitable age), the parents/carers and the medical professionals.

Where the absence is likely to be 15 days or more the Principal, or their representative, will make contact with the Local Authority. School Attendance Support Service (SASS)

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/attendance-support>

This team will support the school to co-ordinate the necessary arrangements for the child to receive an education whilst they are too ill to attend school.

The Local Authority may arrange education outside school which may include:

- Home tuition
- Access to the Hospital and Outreach school
- A 'virtual' school
- Any combination depending on the needs of the child

Where education is provided outside of school, the family will have access to an education officer who will help co-ordinate the education and work with the school, health and other agencies to re-integrate the child back into school.

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 SENDCO. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Inclusion policy
- Attendance Policy