

Oak Bank School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Prepared by	Approved by	Date Approved	GB/ Committee	Review Period	Next Review
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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 also based on guidance provided by the DfE [Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013](#).

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

If a pupil has health needs and is unable to attend school regularly, the school will, in the first instance, talk to the pupil's parents/carers to understand how the school can best support the pupil with their education.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

Where appropriate, the school will utilise its Home Tuition team and remote learning provision to deliver full-time, education (as much as the pupil's situation will allow) for pupils on the school's roll of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education at school. These arrangements will be monitored by the SENCo.

The school will support families who are unable to access remote learning through the provision of devices and mobile data allowance.

When a pupil who has been unable to attend school is agreed to be fit to return, the SENCo will liaise with the parents/carers to determine a suitable phased return to school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority commissioning the place at the school for the pupil will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

All Local Authorities operate a Medical Needs service. This service provides teaching and support for children and young people of statutory school age and on the roll of a school who, due to illness, require suitable alternative arrangements for their education for the period of that illness.

Teaching is provided for pupils whose education is disrupted for an initial period exceeding three weeks, due to:

- an illness or injury keeping the pupil away from school whilst recovering
- an illness or injury requiring regular hospital attendance
- a chronic condition that causes frequent absences from school
- a mental illness requiring therapeutic support

The service provides high quality teaching, mainly in the three core subjects of maths, science and English, as a way of supporting reintegration back into school.

In the main, education takes place in a pupil's home environment. However, where the pupil is able, education takes place in other buildings and may be in small groups. Pupils remain on the roll of the school, and the medical needs teachers work in partnership with the school to ensure continuity and progression for the pupil, taking account of medical advice. The school and the medical needs team will support the reintegration of pupils where the medical advice supports their readiness to return to 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 SENCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.