

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

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 statutory guidance for local authorities to ensure children with health needs receive education.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The Department for Education's statutory guidance states that:
Every child should have the best possible start in life through a high quality education, which allows them to achieve their full potential. A child who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peer group, including a broad and balanced curriculum. As far as possible, children with health needs and who are unable to attend school should receive the same range and quality of education as they would have experienced at their home school.

4. Arrangements for absence due to health needs

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

For short-term absences, absence should be reported in line with the school's Attendance Policy. Pupils should consult subject teachers via e-mail, or in person when they return to school, to discuss the work missed and how best to for catch-up with the lessons. This could involve:

- Copying up notes from another reliable pupil
- Completing work from a worksheet used in the lessons
- Completing additional reading from a source or from a website

Or other purposeful activity

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For longer-term absences (of more than five days), parents should inform the pupil's Head of House (HoH) so that arrangements can be made to collect and send home work to be completed, if appropriate.

The work set will depend on the pupil's health and ability to complete work while absent. The HoH will e-mail subject teachers for relevant work and then arrange for this to be sent home (by e-mail or by post or the parents could collect a pack of work from main reception)

The pupil's HoH will consult with the school's SENDCo to ensure that there is due consideration of any existing special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and to ensure that any previously unidentified SEND needs are investigated. It may be appropriate to use Gloucestershire's SEND Graduated Pathway if additional support needs are identified.

5. Long term absence

In some cases, where there is a prolonged period of absence due to health needs, and in consultation with medical professionals and/or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), it may be appropriate for a referral to be made to Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service.

In cases where there is involvement of medical professionals and/or external services, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, hospital education, 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, when the pupil's health is improved, the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will 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

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- 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