



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: Jan 2022
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Next review due by:	Jan 2023 by FC (SENCO)
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1. Intent

Brookfield School aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health or medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, or continue to have access to as much education as their specific needs allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.
- Due to the nature of their health or medical needs, some children may be admitted to hospital, educated at home or placed in alternative forms of educational provision (such as the Bespoke Pathway). We recognise that, wherever possible, pupils should receive their education within school and the aim of the provision is to re-integrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.
- We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not in school and we will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health or medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.
- 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 regards to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including the following:

- Education Act 1996.
- Equality Act 2010
- 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'

3. Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their health or medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

This may be provided in a number of ways:

- via Provision Leads who will arrange for work to be sent home and/or online learning to take place
- via PDSI/Bespoke Team who may arrange visits from school staff to the family home or external tutor to home or a combination blended approach offering a range of activities

In either case, parent and pupils will be consulted and involved in planning an approach to education that is suitable for the particular circumstances that arise. In cases requiring longer than 15 school days to achieve full attendance, this agreement will be reached via emergency review with representative from Inclusion present.

In every case, the long-term aim would be to re-integrate the pupil back into an appropriate class in main school.

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Lancashire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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.

5. Links to other policies

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Equality Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy (including Children Missing Education)