

# **Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy**

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To be reviewed annually

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## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

## 2. Legislation and guidance

2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and the Equality Act 2010.

The School policy is taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/exclusions-and-alternative-provision.aspx>

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

### 2.2 Definitions

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

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

## 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.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for chronic health reasons, **supported by professional medical evidence**, may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Work sent home / through TEAMS for a short time frame.

- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and students on occasions
- Where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment. Medical PRUs: These LA establishments provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

These arrangements are made through the Pastoral Team in conjunction with the Deputy Headteacher and in consultation with the parents and child, medical consultants, school nursing teams and the LA.

This includes supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes. Liaising with the Deputy Headteacher, education providers and parents to determine students' programs of study whilst they are absent from school. Ferndown Upper School will keep students informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers and where appropriate providing a link between students and their parents and the LA.

Monitoring of these arrangements and student progress will be completed fortnightly by the Pastoral Support Manager to ensure appropriate and timely reintegration.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Dorset will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Dorset's policy for this is available through Sylvia Lord at Dorset Council.

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 student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
  - Enable the student 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**

The Deputy Headteacher will review this policy annually. At every review, the full governing board will approve it.

## **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- SEND policy
- Child Protection Policy