

Children with Health Care needs that
cannot attend School



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CHAIR OF TRUSTEES:	
CEO:	

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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/carers understand what the school is responsible for, when alternative provision is put in place.

Legislation and guidance

Legislative framework informing this policy:

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by section 3a of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2014;
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/pdfs/ukpga_20140006_en.pdf
- Equality Act 2010
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/pdfs/ukpga_20100015_en.pdf

It is based on guidance provided by Oxfordshire County Council. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

The responsibilities of the school

OCC expects that all schools will work in partnership with them, to ensure continuity of access to education for all children unable to attend school because of serious illness or injury. The SEN Casework team will work with the school to review any changing needs of a child with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or statement of SEN, who is unable to attend school because of their health needs. The EHCP will link the long-term educational needs associated with the child's medical condition to the most appropriate teaching and learning provision.

Support provided by the school should be child-centred, taking into account social and emotional needs, so that the child is able to make expected progress and to thrive. This policy applies to all children and young people who:

- have an illness which will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged.
- have a health need and their absence has been validated as necessary by a medical professional, either a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from CAMHS.

Health problems can include physical illnesses, injuries and clinically defined mental health problems certified by medical evidence, such as that provided by a medical consultant.

From CAMHS consultants, the evidence would be in the form of letter and copy of care plan/Care

Programme Approach Plan. This should indicate:

- if the child/young person is unfit for school
- for how long support might be required
- recommended teaching hours
- an outline of what medical intervention is currently in place

For pupils who have returned from hospitals or other in-patient units out of county, medical evidence will be sought from the discharging hospital medical staff.

The Aims of the Provision

For children whose health needs mean they are unable to attend school, the provision will ensure that:

- they make good progress in their education and do not fall behind their peers, particularly in key subjects
- disruption to their learning is minimised and there is a continuity of education provision within the school curriculum
- they feel fully part of their school community and are able to stay in contact with classmates
- they are able to obtain qualifications as appropriate to their age and abilities
- they are able to reintegrate successfully back into school and that this takes place as soon as their health permits
- reasonable adjustments are considered in order to provide suitable access for the child as part of their reintegration.

School Arrangements

In the first instance, the school will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for a pupil with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENDCo will be responsible for initiating and monitoring these arrangements:

- parents/carers and the child will be consulted about arrangements
- recommendations from professionals will be sought
- the class teacher, with the support of the Phase Lead/Curriculum Lead or Head of Faculty, will compile suitable work for the pupil
- the SEND Admin Manager will collate all work and arrange for it to be sent to the pupil's home
- an Individual Reintegration Plan (IRP) will be agreed with parents/carers and the child, when the child is deemed fit to return to school

- an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be drawn up by the School Nurse in consultation with the SENDCo

Alternative Provider

A pupil may be referred by the school to Oxfordshire's Hospital School as the alternative provider. As part of this application process, evidence for the referral will be gathered in consultation with parents/carers and the child so that an appropriate programme of support can be requested. The decision as to the suitability and nature of this provision lies with the Hospital School although the school will continue to have responsibility for the pupil.

Circumstances that may trigger requests for the Outreach Teaching Service involvement or support include children and young people with the following needs:

- those with medical/mental health needs who are or will be absent for more than 15 working days (consecutive or cumulative absence due to the same illness) and who are declared medically unfit, by a consultant clinician, to attend their usual place of learning in spite of support offered by an IHP
- pupils who are re-integrating into school after a period of illness or injury, in accordance with the terms agreed at initial and on-going reviews

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be monitored annually by the school SEND Manager.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- EPA First Aid and Administration of Medicines
- Oxfordshire County Council Policy