



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Chalfont St Peter CE Academy

Agreed by Governing Body	02.12.21
Policy Review	20.01.26 No changes made to the policy at this review.
Next Review	January 2027

Supporting pupils within the school community

In Chalfont St Peter Church of England Academy we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education Guidance and work with Buckinghamshire Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health.

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 Buckinghamshire Council:

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions. Schools are required to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

Although schools are required to ensure that all children with medical conditions are properly supported in school, there are situations where children are unable to attend school because of their health needs. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to arrange suitable education for pupils who because of illness would not receive suitable education. This must be full-time education unless the pupil's health means that full-time education would not be in his or her best interests.

LAs are required to have regard to the following statutory guidance when arranging suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs), and this statutory guidance applies to all children and young people of statutory school age, regardless of the type of school they would normally attend and it applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

[DFE Guidance](#)

3. The responsibilities of the school

We will provide learners with work that allows them to access the core skills and knowledge required in order to give them foundational concepts that will support a successful return to school following a period of absence from medical reasons.

This policy is applicable for students who have an identified long term medical condition requiring additional school support eg. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

We will liaise with parents and initially provide work via a google classroom which is coordinated by the Class Teacher. We will provide paper based resources if necessary and by arrangement with parents if there are significant ICT barriers preventing engagement with google classroom and other online learning platforms.

The process is:

Home alerts the school to the long term medical issue that is preventing school attendance.

A discussion is undertaken with parents. This establishes the concerns, the length of absence, the school support needed and the subjects to be provided.

The class teacher will create an individual Google classroom for the child and upload work linked to the core content for the period of absence, work may be uploaded daily or weekly depending on each individual situation/subject. The child will be provided with some feedback on the quality of this work from the class teacher.

For longer term absence the school will contact Buckinghamshire Council and seek additional support services as required via the Home Tuition Team. We will take a gradual approach to reintegration and will work with parents to formulate a personalised plan. This could involve a reduced timetable which is carefully monitored, reducing the volume of content to focus on mastery of critical core and foundational concepts. Any return plans will be carefully monitored and reviewed for success with parents and adjusted as necessary.

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.

Where necessary, the school will seek support from the Educational Entitlement Team at Buckinghamshire Council, CAMHS and other external agencies and organisations to coordinate the necessary educational provision.

Schools should usually provide support to children who are absent from school because of health needs for a shorter period of time, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

This Buckinghamshire guidance document sets out how the LA will arrange suitable education for Buckinghamshire resident children who cannot attend school because of their health needs through the commissioning of the Buckinghamshire Home Tuition Service and the Hospital Teaching Service at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. For the purpose of this guidance, pupils with health needs are defined as:

- pupils who are physically ill, injured or recovering from medical interventions
- pupils with mental health problems
- teenage mothers or mothers-to-be who are unable to access education in their registered school

Some pupils may not be able to attend school because they are deemed to be school refusers. School refusers are eligible for support from the Home Tuition Service; however they will only be eligible when there is clear supporting evidence from a qualified CAMHS practitioner to certify that the child is unable to attend school due to mental health reasons.

The LA holds responsibility for ensuring that pupils who are unable to attend school because of their health needs are able to access education by commissioning a high quality Home Tuition Service. This includes developing and implementing guidance which secures individual entitlement. The key to successful implementation is partnership between agencies and the LA holding the central role in initiating, developing and sustaining these partnerships. The provision of education to pupils with medical needs through the Home Tuition Service aims to maintain pupil progress. This is essential to the timely reintegration into the school of each pupil in accordance with his/her needs.

In particular, the Local Authority will ensure that:

- This guidance is readily available and widely publicised.
- Every pupil, who is unable to attend school because of a long-term or recurring medical condition, will have an Individual Learning Plan. Education should begin as soon as the medical condition allows.
- Pupils absent from school because of their health needs receive education no later than the sixteenth day following referral.
- Pupils whose diagnosed medical condition indicates prolonged or recurring absence from school have access to education from day one of each absence where possible.
- Regular reports on pupil progress are provided in writing to the pupil, to parents and to the school.
- Multi-agency/multi-disciplinary working is promoted, with clear lines of communication, in particular ensuring appropriate liaison with medical professionals, including where appropriate CAMHS staff, relevant staff in the pupil's school, educational psychologists and any other involved professional parties.
- Continuity in education is supported, including promoting access to home school activities and events.
- An individually tailored reintegration plan which meets with multi-agency approval is in place before the pupil returns to school.

- Educational support continues to be provided by the Home Tuition and Hospital Teaching Service in those cases where reintegration is gradual and part-time.
- Home Tuition Service staff receive appropriate professional support in order to sustain the quality of teaching and learning.
- The Home Tuition and Hospital Teaching Service is monitored and reviewed to ensure that the needs of pupils are met, that the service is cost-effective and that all relevant statutory requirements and guidance is adhered to.
- Appropriate information on the Home Tuition and Hospital Teaching Service is available.

In cases where Buckinghamshire Council makes arrangements, the school will:

Work constructively with Buckinghamshire Council, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student.

Share information with Buckinghamshire Council 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 re-integrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, work with Buckinghamshire Council 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.

[Buckinghamshire home tuition and hospital teaching services guidance](#)

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Sally Valentine, Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions