



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Reviewed on:	November 2025
Next Review:	Annually
Staff Responsibility:	Inclusion Lead/SENCo Headteacher

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 has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996 (Section 19 duty)
- Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 100)
- Equality Act 2010 (reasonable adjustments duty)
- SEND Code of Practice (0–25 years)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2023) Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs
- DfE (2015) Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (DfE, 2018)

It also based on guidance provided by Milton Keynes Local Authority.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Children who are unable to attend school because of their medical needs may include children with:

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

- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

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

- The Attendance Team at Russell Street School will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- The class teacher will arrange the communication of work and appropriate resources to ensure continuity, such as online resources and make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010
- The class teacher will make weekly contact with parents

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Milton Keynes Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. In addition, schools must notify the local authority if a pupil is likely to miss 15 or more school days due to health needs. Milton Keynes LA has a duty under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to arrange suitable education without delay.

In these cases, the Local Authority must

- Arrange suitable education for pupils unable to attend school due to health needs
- Ensure provision starts as soon as it is clear the child will miss 15 or more school days
- Monitor and review the quality of education provided

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

The Local Authority contact is Nina Broderick (Milton Keynes Council)

4. Monitoring arrangements

Dawn Robinson (Headteacher) / David Thompson (SENDCo) will review this policy annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Safeguarding

All arrangements for pupils unable to attend school will comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024). Welfare checks will be carried out regularly.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Inclusion Policy

Appendix: Flowchart for Responsibilities and Escalation

- Step 1: School identifies pupil likely to miss 15+ days due to health needs.
- Step 2: School informs LA and begins Individual Healthcare Plan.
- Step 3: LA arranges suitable education provision (home tuition/online).
- Step 4: School maintains contact and safeguarding checks.
- Step 5: Regular review of provision and reintegration planning.