



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Alwyn Infant School and Courthouse Junior School

Approved by: The Governing Board

Date: Autumn 2025 2026

Last reviewed on: Spring 2025

Next review due by: Autumn 2026

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Children, 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](#) and the DfE statutory guidance, *Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs* (December 2023). It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority, Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Protocol.

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.

- The Head of School and the class teacher will meet with parents to determine suitable arrangements.
- The Head of School will support the class teacher to provide suitable work linked to the National Curriculum.
- The Head of School and the class teacher will meet to discuss reintegration plans, with support from healthcare professionals and parents/carers.

The school will aim to:

- refer to individual health care plans in partnership between the school, parents, healthcare professionals and, whenever appropriate, the pupil
- SENDCo will coordinate, with multi-agencies, the individual health care plan and monitor the pupil's progress
- convene and plan any annual review meetings for pupils with EHCPs
- continue to maintain any plans such as personal education plans and ISPs, etc
- request statutory assessment for pupils should that be an appropriate course of action
- be active in the monitoring of progress and work of the pupil
- loan any appropriate resources relating to the pupil's education
- make arrangements for any national assessment procedures
- the school will aim to maintain continuity of education and make good academic progress, particularly in English, Maths, and Science.
- The school will ensure that all absences due to verifiable health needs, including those while awaiting LA provision, are recorded using the appropriate statutory attendance codes (e.g., Code M for medical or dental appointments/illness). - *Working together to improve school attendance* guidance (August 2024).

The school will notify the Local Authority as soon as it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, due to their health needs, and where the school is unable to provide suitable full-time education.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, RBWM 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 child
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- Keep the pupil on roll

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 every year. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies which can be found on the school website:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Safeguarding