

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Alcester Grammar School



Approved by:	Governing Board
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On:	Sept 2025
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Next review due by:	Sept 2026
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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](#).

[Alternative Provision](#) guidance and

The [education for children with health needs who cannot attend schools](#) guidance.

It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority that the child lives in:

[Warwickshire](#)

[Worcestershire](#)

[Coventry](#)

[Solihull](#)

[Oxfordshire](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association. DfE guidance is [here](#)

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 where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.

The person responsible for making and monitoring arrangements for children who are unable to attend school is the Deputy Pastoral Lead.

3.1.1 The school is responsible for:

- Working collaboratively with parents/carers and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet children's health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.

- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for children who are unable to attend school and liaises with parents/carers, children, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the child's care.
- Creating and Attendance Support Plan for each child, which is reviewed termly.
- Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual children.
- Providing teachers who support children with health needs with suitable information relating to a child's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Notifying the Local Authority when a child is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
- If alternative provision is in the best interests of the child, this will be discussed with the attendance teams from the local authority.
- If the child is accessing an alternative provision then it is still the responsibility of the school to safeguard the child in partnership with the alternative provision.
- If the child does not meet the threshold for alternative provision with the local authority, but it is in the best interest of the child, then the school will consider this on a case by case basis.
- Children admitted to hospital receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned. During a period of absence, the academy works with the provider of the child's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes

3.1.2 Parents/carers are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at school where possible.
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Attend meetings (in person or remotely) to discuss how support for their child will be planned.

3.1.3. Reintegration

- When a child is considered well enough to return to the school, the school develops a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the Local Authority.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the child

- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the child's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill child or their parents/carers/guardians in the early stages of their absence.
- The school is aware that some children will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the child, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the Local authority in which the student lives may become involved in helping to arrange suitable education for these children.

In cases where the local authority is involved, 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Principal and relevant pastoral team members. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.