



Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

Approved by:	School Performance
Date:	November 2021
Last reviewed on:	July 2023
Next Review Date:	July 2024

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents/carers 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
- ‘Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions’ - DfE (2015)

It is also based on guidance provided by our Shropshire Council (Local Authority):

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schools-andeducation/school-attendance-or-exclusion>.

2.1 Local Authority (LA) Duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Ludlow CE School has a duty to support the LA in doing so.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- Liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student.
- Ensure the education students receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual students in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents/carers know who this is.

- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements compliant with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate and suitable for the child.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should **not**:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school, rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

2.2 Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting, where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and students on occasions where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

3. The responsibilities of the school

Shropshire Council supports children with additional needs; see: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-localoffer/education/special-educational-needs-sen-support>

Further guidance can be obtained from: DfE guidance (2013)

3.1 If Ludlow CE 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 a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with the LA. The Curriculum Learning Tutor, under the supervision of the Assistant Headteacher, will make and monitor the arrangements.

The school will make reasonable adjustments under students' individual healthcare plans, in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes. Ludlow CE School staff will send work home or to hospital schools, where requested. Where appropriate, the school will provide the student's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

Whilst a student is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the student can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods: ClassCharts homework app; school newsletters; emails; invitations to school events; cards or letters from peers and staff.

We will consult parents/carers/social workers/LA, where needed, to develop arrangements for the young person's individual needs.

Where possible, we will plan a personalised approach to support the young person's reintegration to school. We will consider anxieties and other parameters to ensure the young person is well-supported in their transition back into school. This may include staggered arrival and departure times, reduced timetable for a fixed period of time, provision in the Pupil Support Centre, continued access to external provision.

3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

If Ludlow CE School cannot make suitable arrangements, Shropshire LA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Our SLT and the pastoral team will meet to discuss if the school can implement and maintain suitable arrangements. Plans and risk assessments will be discussed with the parents/carers, social worker, LA and where possible the young person.

We will consider referring a student to the LA if their absence is in excess of 15 days whether consecutive or cumulative.

The LA will liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
- Share information with the local authority 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 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 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 ClassCharts homework app; school newsletters; emails; invitations to school events; cards or letters from peers and staff).
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

3.3 Examinations and Assessments

- The Curriculum Learning Tutor and Exams Officer will liaise with the alternative provision provider, over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate.
- Relevant assessment information will be provided to the alternative provision provider, if required.
- Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as early as possible.

4. Monitoring arrangement

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher and Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Academy Board's School Performance Committee.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility Plan

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Attendance Policy

Safeguarding Policy

School SEND Information Report