

Bratton Primary School



Children with health needs who
cannot attend school policy

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1. 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 our local authority.

Local Authority Responsibilities:

In line with the Government guidance Wiltshire Local Authority (LA) must:

- Have a designated senior officer with responsibility for access to education for children and young people with medical needs; In Wiltshire, this Officer is Lydia Thomas – Team Leader, Medical Needs Education and Reintegration Service lydia.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Ensure that pupils with a medical condition, diagnosed and supported at Consultant clinician level, that prevents attendance at their usual place of education, are not without access to education for more than 15 school days;
- To promote the implementation of an Individual Health Care Plan / Personal Education Plan for pupils who have illness / diagnosis which prompts prolonged or recurring periods of absence from school;
- Ensure that children of compulsory school age are in receipt of an appropriate amount of teaching hours dependent on their medical need;
- Respond to a school's request for assistance by considering the most appropriate educational provision and how it can be implemented by supporting the school in meeting their statutory responsibility for compulsory school aged children and young people

The expectation of Wiltshire LA is that all absence from school for medical reasons which may necessitate alternative educational provision is supported by confirmation at Consultant clinician level of the young person's condition and inability to attend school. Long term absences from school attributed to stress, anxiety and school refusal should be referred to specialist mental health agencies for assessment, thereby enabling advice to be obtained regarding appropriate educational provision and reintegration to the young person's usual place of education. Wiltshire's Medical Needs Education and Reintegration Service will consider approaches for support.

3. The responsibilities of the school

At all times, the pupil remains the responsibility of the school where they are on roll. In line with Government guidance Wiltshire schools must:

- Have a policy and named person responsible for dealing with pupils unable to attend school because of their medical needs;
- Keep the pupil on roll and include them in any planning;
- Provide work and materials if pupils are absent for up to 15 school days;
- Co-ordinate, implement and review Individual Health Care Plans / Personal Education Plans, be active in the monitoring of pupils who may attend school for partial days and monitor the progress and reintegration into school of those who have been absent because of their medical needs, liaising with other agencies as necessary;
- Draw up an Individual Health Care Plan / Personal Education Plan for any pupil with diagnosed medical conditions to be reviewed at least annually in continuing partnership with the pupil, parents and professionals;
- Ensure that pupils who have SEN but do not have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have their SEN mentioned in their Individual Health Plan / Personal Education Plan;
- Ensure that pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs are kept informed about school social events and are able to participate. Examples of these are homework clubs, study support and other activities;
- Ensure that arrangements are made for pupils who are due to undertake public examinations, including assistance with scribing, alternative venue and submission of mitigation where appropriate;
- Encourage and facilitate liaison with peers for example through visits, use of Information Technology and social events.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Wiltshire local authority, will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In cases where the Wiltshire 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 Wiltshire 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 Mrs Laura Gullen (SENCo) 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
- Add any other relevant policies you have