



DERBYSHIRE TRUST

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

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Created by:	Deputy Trust Leader
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Aims and Introduction

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
- Pupils, staff and parents understand that this policy relates specifically to pupils who are unable to attend school due to their health needs; the schools' Policy for 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs' relates to pupils with specific medical or health needs who are able to attend school

ACE Derbyshire Trust aims to support the local authority and ensure that all pupils who are unable to attend school due to health needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all pupils with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education. Our policies and procedures for supporting pupils in school with medical or health needs can be found in 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs.'

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on, and has due regard to, the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- **Education Act 1996 (Section 19)**
Which places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness or other reasons, would otherwise not receive suitable education.
- **Equality Act 2010**
Which requires schools and local authorities to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities and to ensure that pupils with protected characteristics are not placed at a substantial disadvantage as a result of their health needs.
- **Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 100)**
Which places a duty on governing bodies to make arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- **Department for Education statutory guidance:**
Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (December 2023)
This guidance sets out how local authorities, schools and healthcare partners

should work together to ensure children with health needs receive suitable education as soon as it becomes clear that they will be unable to attend school for an extended period.

- **Department for Education statutory guidance:**
Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions
Which outlines schools' responsibilities for supporting pupils with medical conditions who are able to attend school and complements this policy.
- **Department for Education guidance:**
Working together to improve school attendance
Providing remote education
Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance
Which inform expectations around attendance, flexible and remote provision, and support where physical or mental health needs affect a pupil's ability to attend school.

This policy also reflects and is informed by **Derbyshire County Council guidance**, including arrangements for **Out of School Tuition (OOST)** for pupils who are unable to attend school due to long-term or complex health needs.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. Please click [here](#) to see the guidance from Derbyshire LA.

The responsibilities of the schools in ACE Derbyshire Trust

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 teacher will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- These arrangements will include sending work home or to hospital schools and will be dependent on what is appropriate at the time.
- The head teacher and class teacher will arrange to meet with parents and children to discuss the arrangements
- The head teacher and class teacher will meet with parents and children to discuss how the pupils will be reintegrated back into school

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Derbyshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. If the pupil was going to be absent for longer than 15 school days the head teacher will inform out of school tuition. Initially the head teacher would contact out of school tuition (01629 535295) who would then provide a referral form to complete.

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, the school will 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

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions