



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Autumn 2022

Senior member of staff responsible:	Mr P Lowe-Werrell, Head Teacher
Designated member of staff:	Mrs S Longhurst, Assistant Head Teacher
Approved by Governing Body:	October 2022
Review date:	September 2023

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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 (LA).

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](#).
- [DfE \(2015\) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'](#)

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority:

- [School attendance or exclusion | Shropshire Council](#)

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 children 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-local-offer/>
Further guidance can be obtained from: [DfE guidance](#).

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 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 Local Authority.
- The Form Tutor and Head of House, under the supervision of Assistant Headteacher (SENCo), will make and monitor the arrangements.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under students' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), 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.
- The school will usually place the work on Classcharts but where access is difficult, arrangements will be made for work to be sent home or to hospital schools where requested.
- Where possible staff will deliver online education in accordance with our Remote Learning Policy. Teachers may deliver tutorials in order to support the learning. There will be daily contact made by the school.
- 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.
- Whilst a student is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the child and family can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods:
 - School newsletters
 - Emails
 - Invitations to school events
 - Cards or letters from peers and staff.
- We will consult with 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.

3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Mary Webb School and Science College has a duty to support the LA in doing so. The LA should:

- Provide 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.
- Ensure the education is of good quality, allows the student to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school.
- Address the needs of the individual student 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.
- 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.

Mary Webb School and Science College will work with Shropshire Local Authority to:

- Work in partnership 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 newsletters, emails, invitations to school events and daily check-ins).
- 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

- A named member of staff 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 arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Sarah Longhurst, Assistant Headteacher. 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
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions