

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Mary Webb School and Science College



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Written by:

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Approved by:

The Governing Body

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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 our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- › [The Education Act 1996](#)
- › [The Education \(Student Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- › [Alternative provision](#)
- › [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority: - [School attendance or exclusion | Shropshire Council](#)

3. 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 [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our Mary Webb School and Science College will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of 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 Go 4 Schools, 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 the team around the child 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 the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Shropshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

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.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, Mary Webb School and Science College will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any students of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child

- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, invitations to school events), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs S Longhurst (Assistant Headteacher, 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 Policy and Plan
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and Information Report
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions