



Southwark Diocesan  
**Board of Education**  
Multi-Academy Trust

# **CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY TEMPLATE**

Part of the 2025/2026 Trust Operating Manual

# CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

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## **CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY**

### **1. AIMS**

This policy aims to ensure that:

- 1.1 Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- 1.2 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**

- 2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### **3. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL**

- 3.1 Check your local authority's guidance on providing education to children with additional health needs, to see what responsibilities it places on you in this circumstance.
- 3.2 Adapt the sections below as needed. You'll also need to edit the text in section 3.4 if your responsibilities deviate from what we've set out, which is general good practice derived from DfE guidance.

#### **3.3 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.

- (a) You may want to add more details on areas such as:
- (b) Who in your school will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- (c) What sort of arrangements could be made (e.g. sending work home, hospital schools)
- (d) How you'll consult parents and children about these arrangements
- (e) How you'll reintegrate pupils back into school

#### **3.4 If the Local Authority makes arrangements**

- (a) If the school can't make suitable arrangements, [name of your local authority] will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.
- (b) You may want to add more details about how and when your local authority would take over responsibility, such as:
  - (i) How it would be decided if arrangements are 'suitable'
  - (ii) How many days a child would need to be absent from school
  - (iii) The process for referring a child to the local authority
- (c) In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:
  - (i) Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
  - (ii) Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
  - (iii) 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
  - (iv) When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:

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- (A) 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
- (B) 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)
- (C) Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- (D) Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

### **4. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by [name/job title of individual]. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.
- 4.2 (The DfE advises that you review this policy annually, in its list of statutory policies.)

### **5. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES**

This policy links to the following policies:

- 5.1 Accessibility plan
- 5.2 Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- 5.3 Add any other relevant policies you have