



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Governor Committee Responsible:	Full Governing Body	Governor Lead(s):	Headteacher
Status	Statutory	Review Cycle	Annual
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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 [Gloucestershire County Council](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

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.

- The Headteacher or SENDCO will oversee arrangements.
- The class teacher will liaise with parents/carers and professionals to determine the educational arrangements best suited to support the child and could include:
 - Sending work home or setting work to be accessed remotely through Teams.
 - Working with the Hospital Education Service.

- In consultation with parents/carers and any agencies involved, a suitable plan will be made with the class teacher to re-integrate the child back into school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 When children and young people are unable to continue at school because of illness, the Education Act 1996 requires Local Education Authorities to provide them with 'suitable education' for example in a hospital school or in home tuition.

If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments), Gloucestershire Local Education Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children and they will effectively need to be signed off school by a medical professional - a referral accepted by Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service, where a medical professional has confirmed a child or young person is medically unable to attend school even with adjustments.

A referral to Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES) is made when a pupil is medically unable to attend school and this is likely to be for at least 15 days or more (e.g. surgical recovery). The referral from is generally completed by a NHS paediatric consultant (or tier 3 CYPS practitioner or psychiatrist). The referrer is asked to provide detailed information about the pupil, including:

- Confirmation that the pupil is medically unable to attend school
- The reason for the absence (medical condition)
- Likely duration of absence from school
- Amount of education (in hours) that is suitable for the young person, taking into account their medical condition and the intensity of one-to-one tuition.

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, 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.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually .