



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Type of Policy:	DCAT Statutory Policy

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<i>Type of Policy</i>	<i>Tick ✓</i>
DCAT Statutory Policy	✓
DCAT Non-statutory Policy	
DCAT Model Optional Policy	
Academy Policy	
Local Authority Policy	

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Introduction

Our **vision** for our Trust is we exist to:

Help every child achieve their God-given potential

Our **aims** are clear. We aim to be a Trust in which:

- D**eveloping the whole child means pupils achieve and maximise their potential
- C**ontinued development of staff is valued and improves education for young people
- A**ll schools are improving and perform above national expectations
- T**he distinct Christian identity of each academy develops and is celebrated

Our work as a Trust is underpinned by shared **values**. They are taken from the Church of England's vision for Education and guide the work of Trust Centre team. They are:

Aspiration

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
(Philippians 4 vs 13).

Wisdom

Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise
(Proverbs 19 vs 20)

Respect

So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you
(Matthew 7 vs 12)

Our vision of helping every child achieve their God-given potential is aligned with the Church of England's vision for education and is underpinned by the Bible verse from John: *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

These five Christian values are taken from our Mission Statement, which was drawn up by our pupils, staff, parents and governors at the end of 2018. The full text reads as follows:

*With God's help
we will live kindly,
love each other,
learn and laugh together!*

1. Policy Aims

The Trust and its schools aim to ensure that:

- Schools will provide suitable full-time education to every pupil who is absent or who is likely to be absent from school for more than 15 working days (either consecutively or cumulatively) because of the same health condition. The only exception to this policy is if, given the pupil's health condition, that provision would not be in the pupil's best interests. In every case a doctor must provide written confirmation that the pupil cannot attend school.
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority
- Pupils in school are safe and happy

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Mrs CASS SENCo and class teachers are responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

Parents/carers will be invited to a meeting to discuss the needs of their child.

Pupils will be reintegrated back into school by negotiations with the parent/carer and other relevant professionals. e.g. CAHMS, psychologists, GP.

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 Head Teacher and SENDCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents / carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital school or a Learning Support Assistant may attend the home to deliver lessons. Work will be prepared by class teachers.

The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

West Sussex County Council – Access the West Sussex Policy [here](#)

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil. They should also ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

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 every 2 years by DCAT. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust Board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions