



# Children with healthcare needs that cannot attend school

## POLICY

Rednock School  
*Where everyone matters*



**Date of Ratification:**

November 2025

**Date of Review:**

November 2026

**Responsibility of:**

Dr S Cunningham, Deputy Headteacher

# Children with healthcare needs that cannot attend school

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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this 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 \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

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

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our [local authority](#), Gloucestershire County Council.

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

The school will work in conjunction with the child, their parents and, where relevant, external parties that may include health professionals.

- If a student is off school unwell the school will work with the individual family and where relevant external parties to establish need and provide the relevant support. All actions are taken with the aim of getting the student back into school full time.
- Where a student has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and there is a concern around their health needs impacting attendance, this will trigger a review of the EHCP. In addition, the local authority will be contacted to seek support.
- The school will liaise with all relevant agencies to review and secure the most appropriate support for the student.

### 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. All with the aim of getting the student back into school full time.

- This initial point of contact will be the child's tutor and their community team. They will try to understand the individual circumstances, what is needed and what can be done to support them.
- Students will have access to online resources within the school's Google Classroom suite or other whole school platforms e.g. Oak Academy, GCSEPod.
- The school will liaise with the student and their parents via meetings either in person or online or if not possible over the phone.
- When the student is ready to reintegrate back into school we will work closely alongside them, parents and the relevant external bodies to ensure that the reintegration is carefully planned and delivered according to the student's needs.
- If the intervention/support is ineffective then the student will move up the graduated pathway and the school will seek further support.
- Regular communication with LA around students' needs.
- If the school seeks support from the LA, they may ask for medical evidence to provide a steer for further provision

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements Gloucestershire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Statutory guidance says local authorities should provide education "as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more". In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- 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 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 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 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 by the Deputy 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
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding policy
- SEND policy