



ANSFORD ACADEMY

LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

Behaviour and Inclusion Policy Suite

Children with Health Needs who

Cannot Attend School

Status:	Statutory
Adopted:	June 2024
Renewal Period:	Yearly
Next Review:	June 2025

Section 1: Introduction

Ansford Academy is committed to supporting students with health needs that prevent them from attending school. We strongly believe that every student should have the best possible start in life through a high-quality education, which allows them to leave Ansford fully prepared for the next phase of their lives. A student who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peers. Following a broad and balanced curriculum is central to this and therefore we will do all we can to support students to access a suitable curriculum if they are unable to access our provision.

Section 2: Purpose

Ansford Academy is responsible for the education of students who are on our roll and are not well enough to attend our setting. We aim to ensure that all students who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some students may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their Academy and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough. Where this is not possible, we will work to provide an appropriate level of education remotely while alternative provision is established.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not attending the Academy and will work with the Local Authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all students with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Section 3: 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

Section 4: Legislation and Guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013 updated 2023) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'

- DfE (2015 updated 2017) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

This policy is also based on guidance provided by our Local Authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Section 5: Definitions

Students who are unable to attend their Academy as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

Section 6: Roles and Responsibilities

a) The Governors of the Community, Culture and Welfare Committee are responsible for:

- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend their Academy due to their medical needs;
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those within the Academy involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all;
- Ensuring staff with responsibility within the Academy for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

b) The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the policy is effectively implemented across the Academy;
- Working with the Governors of the Community, Culture and Welfare Committee to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting students with health needs;
- Working collaboratively with parents/carers and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the needs of students;
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet students' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon;
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents/carers, students, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the student's care.

c) The Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion is responsible for:

- Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual students;
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs;
- Providing teachers who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student;
- Providing reports to the Governors of the Community, Culture and Welfare Committee on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of students.

d) The Pastoral Support Lead: Attendance Intervention and Support, in conjunction with Heads of Year, is responsible for:

- Consulting with the Local Authority when a student is likely to be away from the Academy for a significant period of time (more than 15 days in one instance or throughout an academic year) due to their health needs;
- Dealing with students who are unable to attend because of medical needs;
- Actively monitoring student progress and reintegration into the Academy;
- Supplying students' education providers with information about their capabilities, progress and outcomes;
- Liaising with the Deputy Headteacher, education providers and parents/carers to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from the Academy;
- Keeping students informed about Academy events and encouraging communication with their peers;
- Providing a link between students and their parents/carers, and the Local Authority.

e) The SENDCo is responsible for:

- Considering whether an assessment of special educational needs is required in cases where long term absence is severely affecting learning progress.

f) The First Aid Administrator is responsible for:

- Arranging a medical meeting between the student/parents/Head of Year/Pastoral Support Leader/nurse or consultant, (if the student is under certain medical care), to discuss any concerns or ways to support the student at school and obtain the necessary medical evidence e.g. Dr or Clinician letters;
- Completing any necessary risk assessments or Individual Health Care Plan (IHP) to ensure students safety while in school care, any specific assistance required and plans for the storing and administering of medication.;
- Ensuring that relevant teaching and supply staff, as well as first aiders, are informed of students' conditions and necessary procedures put in place;
- Liaising with families and to ensure that any necessary changes to students' Individual Health Care Plans are communicated effectively;

- Conducting an annual review of all individual cases to identify any changes or clarify with parents and carers that no changes are needed.

g) Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student's health needs.

h) Healthcare professionals including GPs and paediatricians are expected to:

- Notify the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition that will require support at school including providing the following information:
 - Confirmation that the student 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;
 - Any reports, diagnoses or evidence that is required by the school in relation to the young person's health needs;
- Provide advice by attending meetings related to completing or reviewing medical personalised education plans.

i) Parents and carers are expected to:

- Work in partnership with the Academy to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child;
- Notify the Academy of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay;
- Provide the Academy with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs;
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned;
- Carry out any action they have agreed to as part of the implementation of the IHCP e.g. provide medicines and equipment, and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

Section 7: Students with Long -Term or Recurring Absence

Initially, and in consultation with the student's health team, the Academy will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The Deputy Head Teacher, Pastoral Support Leader, Head of Year and / or SENDCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

The arrangements in place will be aligned to the following:

- Age of the student
- Stage in their academic studies
- Medical condition
- Advice from medical professionals
- The views of the young person
- The views of the parents and carers

All adjusted and modified timetables will be part of a planned phased return into school at the point it is agreed by all professionals that it is appropriate.

Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the Academy will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with the Local Authority, relevant medical professionals, parents/carers and, where appropriate, the student. Consultation with parents and children about the arrangements will include regular reviews, including input from medical professionals at all times.

The Local Authority expects all schools and academies to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the Academy to make reasonable adjustments to students' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments. The Academy will make reasonable adjustments under students' Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs), in accordance with the Supporting Students 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. During a period of absence, the Academy will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.

Where appropriate, the Academy will provide the student's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

To help ensure a student with additional health needs is able to attend their Academy following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the Head of Year and Pastoral Support Leader and reviewed regularly;
- Access to additional support in the Academy ;
- Online access to the curriculum from home;
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms;
- Places to rest at the Academy;

- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

The student 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 student may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

After 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, the school will refer to the Local Authority

Section 8: If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Somerset Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The school will access this through Mendip Partnership Panel and the Medical Tuition Service.

The below is taken from the statutory guidance for Local Education Authorities: 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory guidance for local authorities 2013 updated 2023'

The Local Authority should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative and liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student;
- Ensure the education students 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 students 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.

In cases where the local authority arranges, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student;
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- 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.

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.

Section 9: Monitoring and Recording of Absence

All students who are unable to attend school for a sustained period of time due to medical needs will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, by the Head of Year in conjunction with relevant Local Authority representatives, the Pastoral Support Lead: Attendance Intervention and Support and the Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

The monitoring will be by telephone, or an online or face to face meeting depending on circumstances. Ongoing medical advice will be taken into account at all times. Cases are treated and dealt with on an individual basis in accordance with the needs of the student.

Absence will be recorded on the register as illness (code I) only when appropriate medical advice has been received. To authorise an absence, medical needs evidence at consultant level must be received by the school.

When a student commences education with an alternative education provider the absence will be recorded as educated off site. This is in accordance with the Local Authority and Ansford Academy's attendance policy.

Section 10: Monitoring Arrangements

The Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion will review this policy annually. It will be approved by the Community, Culture and Welfare Committee at every review.

Section 11: Links to other Policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Attendance Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Equality Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs Information Report
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions