



Pate's Grammar School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Approved by:

Full Governing Body

Date: June 2026

Next review due by:

June 2027



Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. Definitions.....	2
4. The responsibilities of the school.....	3
5. Monitoring arrangements.....	6
6. Links to other policies	6

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/carers 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 legislation of the [Education Act 1996](#) and [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#).

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

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

It also based on [guidance](#) provided by our local authority.

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

3. Definitions

3.1 Children who are unable to attend school because 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; and
- Terminal illnesses.

3.2 Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and students on occasions where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment; and
- Medical Pupil Referral Units (PRUs): these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

3.3 Children who are able to attend mainstream education with medical conditions may include those with:

- Physical or mental health issues;
- Long-term and complex medical conditions that may require ongoing support, medicines or care while at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well;
- Conditions which may require monitoring and interventions in emergency circumstances; and
- Some children with medical conditions may be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010.

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1 If the school makes arrangements

The School aims 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 children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision.

The School understands that it has a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not attending the School and will work with the relevant professionals, healthcare partners and families to



ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

The School recognises that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within our School and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into School as soon as they are well enough. Initially, the school will consider if it is possible to arrange the delivery of a suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

If it is clear that the student will be away for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, the School will start the referral process to the Local Authority. If it is possible, the arrangement for delivery of a suitable education will be put in place by the School.

At the School, arrangements are deemed suitable if:

- The reasonable adjustments made provide access to the school, where appropriate, and the curriculum for the student. Reasonable adjustments should also take into consideration the Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs of the child.
- Monitoring processes show improvements in the student accessing the appropriate curriculum and School.

The Pastoral Team 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, with input from external professional agencies where applicable.

Arrangements could include sending work home, online provision of learning or providing alternative notes and resources. Where appropriate, we will also attempt to maintain social contact with the young person's peer group.

The student will be slowly integrated back into school either with alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times, or a personalised timetable until their health needs have been met.

At the point at which the above reasonable adjustments become unsuitable, the Local Authority will be informed.

4.2 If the Local Authority (LA) makes arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Gloucestershire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. When the local authority arranges alternative education, this should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.



Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

The process for referring the child to the local authority follows the completion of [a Section 19 report](#), with parental consent. The School will assist, where appropriate in making this report.

In the event that a referral is made, the LA 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. They should 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/carers 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.

In cases where the LA makes arrangements, the School will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any students of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs.
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the student. 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.
- 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.



- 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, the School will 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, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made. If the school can't make suitable arrangements or its own arrangements are deemed unsuitable, Gloucestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Bethan Morgan, Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies on our school [page](#):

- Accessibility policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Complaints Procedure
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Special educational needs information report
- SEND Policy
- Data Protection Policy

