



**Policy for Children with health needs who  
cannot attend school**

**V1.1**

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## Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to significant health needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

## Legislation and Guidance

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

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. [occ medical needs policy \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

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

## The responsibilities of the school

It is the school's responsibility to provide adequate education for a child that is unable to attend school due to significant ill health for up to 15 days, after this time OCC takes on this educational responsibility.

It is the responsibility of school to make the referral to the OHS (Oxfordshire hospital school) after the 15 days of absence.

It is the responsibility of the school to collate the necessary evidence for the referral to the Outreach Teaching Service. Admissions criteria and referral procedures are available on the OHS website.

All referrals must be verified, in writing, by a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from Child and Mental Health Adolescent Services (CAMHS).

This should indicate:

- if the child/young person is unfit for school
- for how long support might be required
- a recommendation on the number of teaching hours the young person is able to manage based on their state of health.

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- an outline of what medical intervention is currently in place.

Once a child has been referred to OHS it is the OHS and school's responsibility to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, helping the child to keep up rather than having to catch up with his/her education.

The school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with significant health needs who cannot attend school. The Executive headteacher or head teacher will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. This may include (e.g. sending work home, sending work to hospital schools or an agreed part time timetable, county will be informed of this) This decision will be made in consultation with parents and healthcare professionals. often the school nurse will be involved in this process and an Individual Health Care Plan is completed.

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, due to; a lack of support from external services, the state of a child's health, or inability to communicate with parents, Oxfordshire county Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- The child would need to have been absent from school for 15 days, although this does not have to be consecutive.
- The school alongside healthcare professionals and parents will make the referral to OHS as an alternative educational provider.

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 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.

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- 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

## Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SEND Lead. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## Link to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Individual Healthcare Plan
- Medication Consent form
- Record of Medication administered form
- Sharing a concern or Raising a complaint
- Equality objectives
- First Aid
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding
- SEND policy and annual report

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