



Brighter Futures
Educational Trust

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Policy Number: 16

Review Committee: Standards

Type of Policy: Statutory

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Next Review: April 2027



VERSION CONTROL

V1.1	March 2024	Version control added and Teams has been added under the online training (in red)
V1.2	March 2025	Layout & Name Changes Adding/Change of sections 3, 4.1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 & 12.
V1.3	April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Layout due to rebranding• Updates to sections 2, 4, 6 and 7

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1. AIMS

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Pupils with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to education
- Pupils, staff and parents understand the school's role in supporting pupils with medical needs

The Trust recognises that pupils with medical conditions should be properly supported to enable them to have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy is based on:

- Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- The Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE guidance: 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' (2015)

3. DETAILED RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Trust Board

- Ensure arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions
- Ensure policy is implemented effectively

3.2 Headteachers / Heads of School

- Ensure staff are aware of pupils' medical needs
- Ensure appropriate training is in place
- Ensure systems are in place for emergency situations

3.3 Named Medical Needs Lead

- Coordinate provision for pupils with medical conditions
- Liaise with parents, healthcare professionals and external agencies
- Oversee Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

3.4 SENCO / SEND Lead

- Support identification and provision for pupils with medical needs
- Work alongside medical lead and external agencies

3.5 Staff

- Understand pupils' medical needs and associated risks
- Implement Individual Healthcare Plans
- Maintain confidentiality
- Attend training as required

4. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) will be developed in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals and the pupil where appropriate.

Plans will include:

- Medical condition details
- Required support and adjustments
- Medication requirements
- Emergency procedures

Plans will be reviewed at least annually or when needs change.

The school will work with ESMA to ensure that any pupil of statutory school age who has medical evidence that they are unable to attend school, will receive support in the core subjects (English, Maths and Science). The school and ESMA aim to support your child in going back into school, as soon as they are well enough to do so. ESMA Teaching Service uses a variety of tools to support students including:

- Online learning through Teams

- face-to-face teaching by the ESMA Teacher (the number of hours will depend on your child's health needs)
- online face-to-face 1:1 tuition by the ESMA Teacher (the number of hours will depend on your child's health needs)
- education support by the ESMA Teaching Assistant

4.1 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.

These arrangements may include:

1. Sending work home
2. Providing remote education via online platforms
3. Arranging for a Teaching Assistant to attend the home
4. Creating personalised or part-time timetables

The details of this approach will be agreed with school staff in consultation with parents and relevant agencies. A variety of approaches are available to the school and we will make every effort to personalise the approach that best suits the needs of each pupil.

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, ESMA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

5. ABSENCES MANAGEMENT

5.1 Authorising Absences:

1. The school will authorise absences due to illness with appropriate medical evidence
2. Parents/carers must provide medical documentation for extended absences

5.2 Notifying the Local Authority:

1. The school will notify the LA when absences exceed 15 days
2. Regular updates will be provided on pupil progress

5.3 Hospital Admissions:

1. The school will maintain contact during hospital stays
2. Educational support and resources will be provided as needed

6. SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

6.1 Making Reasonable Adjustments:

The school will ensure pupils are supported through:

- Flexible timetabling
- Adjustments to curriculum and environment

- Access to rest areas
- Support during exams

Pupils will not be excluded from activities unless this is supported by medical evidence.

6.2 Communication Methods:

1. School newsletters
2. Emails
3. Invitations to school events
4. Cards or letters from peers and staff

7. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Staff will be aware of emergency procedures for pupils with medical conditions.

- Emergency plans will be included in IHPs
- Staff will know how to respond to medical incidents
- Emergency contact details will be readily available

8. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed and approved annually by the board of Trustees at Brighter Futures Educational Trust.

9. DEFINITIONS

Medical conditions may include:

1. Physical health issues
2. Physical injuries
3. Mental health problems
4. Emotional difficulties

5. Progressive conditions
6. Terminal illnesses
7. Chronic illnesses

Educational provisions may include:

1. Hospital school
2. Home tuition services
3. Medical PRUs

10. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy
- Attendance policy

11. REINTEGRATION PLANNING

Creating Reintegration Plans:

- Individual plans developed with pupils and families
- Phased return arrangements where appropriate
- Support mechanisms identified and implemented

Maintaining Consistent Provision:

- Access to same curriculum materials where possible
- Regular communication with school community

- Ongoing support during transition

12. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

Information Sharing:

- Regular updates on educational progress
- Liaison with healthcare providers
- Communication with parents/carers

13. CONFIDENTIALITY

- Adherence to data protection requirements
- Sharing information on a need-to-know basis
- Obtaining necessary consents