

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

2025/2026

EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY WITH INTEGRITY

Date of Approval:	July 2025
Approved by:	LAB
Date of next Review:	July 2026

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

2. Legislation and guidance

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

It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority. [LINK](#)

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

- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'. It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

It is the duty of the student's school to provide learning resources that enable the student to access a broad and balanced curriculum and ensure continuity in the student's education.

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 for a period of time agreed with home school and parents. For a short term, interim measure we would be able to provide home learning.

If the child's medical need is significant and long-term we will work with the home school to refer the student back to them for that provision to put into place their Children with Health Needs school Policy.

This may include further applications to VPP and Home and Hospital referrals and we will support the home school where necessary within that process.

The Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education) and SENDCO are responsible for ensuring that suitable education arrangements are in place for students with short term medical issues. The Crew Leads and the relevant teaching staff for the student will be responsible for the co-ordination between school and the parents/guardian of the student for the dissemination of allocated work for the duration of the absence.

Work will be collated by the student's teachers and placed on teams to enable the student to access the work remotely and we will also provide a laptop where a suitable device is not available. The school is not responsible for the supply or financial costs of internet provision. In circumstances where internet provision is not available the school will provide physical copies of work to the student via their parents/guardians.

Students returning to school from a short term interim absence will attend a meeting with their Crew Lead and SENDCO prior to their return to determine the best strategy to reintegrate back into school, whilst ensuring that any medical needs of the student are met. Where necessary a risk assessment and a Healthcare/Care Plan will be undertaken and put in place.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Sunderland local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. 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 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 makes arrangements, the school and trust will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, home schools, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Co-ordinate with the home school to 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.
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

1. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head of School (Quality of Education and the SENDCO). At every review, it will be approved by the Local Academy Board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- SEND Policy <https://www.consiliumevolve.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=248&type=pdf>