



Schools for Every Child

Children with Health needs who cannot attend school policy

We are an education Trust that is committed to running dynamic, ever-improving schools. We work to make sure that every child feels they belong in their school where they feel safe and inspired by learning. For us, learning is an adventure. It is a privilege and a responsibility for all who work with us to ensure that the journey through school is exciting, challenging, caring and enriching, and that every child experiences joy, wonder, calm and success.

Approval Level	Board
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Trust/Template/School level	Trust
Review cycle	Annual

“The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance”. (DfE)

Approval History

Committee Approval	Status	Next Review Date
Education & Standards 7th February 2024	Review in progress Submitted for Ratification Live Policy	April '25

This procedure works in conjunction with the following Schools for Every Child policies and procedures that are all available on the Schools for Every Child web site

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, 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 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) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the Trust Board

The Trust Board is Responsible for:

- Ensuring the Local Governance Committees fulfil their responsibilities as outlined below.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those throughout the Trust involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring systems across the Trust for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents are robust and fit for purpose.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place across the Trust to implement and quality assure the training of staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs.
- Approving and reviewing this policy

4. Responsibilities of the schools

At Schools for Every ChildT schools, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting, receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education Guidance and work with Essex Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream school because of their health.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will, however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where the child can still attend school with some support. Where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school, we would not expect the Local Authority to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.([DfE guidance](#), 2013).

4.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the Schools for Every Child school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

This will involve:

- Initial contact being made by the pastoral team to establish the child's individual medical need and potential barriers to attending school
- Arrangements being agreed and established e.g. sending work home (including the provision of virtual learning through individual school's identified learning programmes), education offsite (including

through hospital schools) or additional adult support within school (in line with an individual health care plan as appropriate)

- On-going discussions between families, school and health providers to monitor agreed arrangements and identify when/ how pupils can be reintegrated back into school (where appropriate).
- Liaising with the SENDCo for pupils whom also have Special Educational Needs (SEN).

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

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

When a pupil is unable to attend school due to their medical needs for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, the school will complete the Education Access medical referral form and submit electronically to medical@essex.gov.uk. The referral form can be accessed through the Education Access pages on Essex Schools Infolink. All referrals will be completed in full and accompanied by supporting medical advice. The school will ensure that any referral is received by Education Access.

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 the school as appropriate)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENCO of each Schools for Every Child school. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.