



The Leys Primary & Nursery School

Learning TodayLeading Tomorrow

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

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Changes since previous version:

The key changes are Page 3 - Section 3.2 – shown in bold

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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, including both physical and mental health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)
- Children with health needs receive appropriate support to continue their education and maintain connection with school life

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024

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

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority, Hertfordshire County Council.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

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

SLT along with Class Teacher and SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements, which may include:

- Sending work home (paper-based or digital)
- Providing access to remote/online learning platforms
- Liaison with hospital schools where applicable
- Arranging video calls or recorded lessons where appropriate
- Communicating with tutors and parents/carers on a regular basis



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- Maintaining the child's connection to their class and school community

All arrangements will be monitored and reviewed weekly, along with steps of reintegration. The type and amount of education provided will be tailored to the individual child's needs, taking into account the advice of medical professionals and the child's ability to engage with learning.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or **when it becomes 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, **we will notify** Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) **as soon as possible**. HCC will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and 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.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils 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 child
- 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
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required (in accordance with GDPR and data protection requirements)
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, including mental health needs, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services (**such as CAMHS, educational psychologists, or mental health support teams**) 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)



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- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child 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
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence, and considers any adjustments needed for the child's ongoing health needs
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made under the Equality Act 2010

3.3 Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Headteacher/SLT	• - Overall responsibility for ensuring policy implementation • Liaison with local authority when needed • Authorising absence and monitoring attendance • Ensuring appropriate resources are allocated
SENCO	• Coordinating support for pupils with SEND and health needs • Liaison with external agencies and health professionals • Monitoring provision and reviewing individual plans • Supporting staff in making appropriate arrangements
Class Teacher	• Preparing and providing work/learning materials • Maintaining regular contact with pupil and family



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Role	Responsibilities
	• Keeping the child connected to their class • Planning for reintegration • Providing information to alternative providers
Governing Board	• Ensuring the school has appropriate policy in place • Monitoring implementation through SIC Committee • Annual policy review and approval
Parents/Carers	• Informing school of health needs promptly • Providing medical evidence where required • Working with school and providers to support child's education • Supporting child's engagement with learning at home

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by SLT. At every review, it will be approved by the SIC Committee and ratified by the full governing board.

The effectiveness of arrangements for individual pupils will be monitored through:

- Weekly reviews of provision by SLT, Class Teacher and SENCO
- Regular communication with parents/carers
- Liaison with alternative providers where applicable
- Tracking of academic progress and wellbeing
- Review of reintegration plans

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- SEND policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policy