

# JOHN TAYLOR MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



## Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

**Procedures:** to be read in conjunction with DFE  
Guidance 2013 'Ensuring a good education for children who  
cannot attend school because of health needs. Statutory  
guidance for Local Authorities'

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/941900/health\\_needs\\_guidance\\_accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf)

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## 1.Aims and Introduction

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
- Pupils, staff and parents understand that this policy relates specifically to pupils who are unable to attend school due to their health needs; the schools' Policy for 'Supporting Pupils with Special Medical Needs [amend to reflect school policy title]' relates to pupils with specific medical or health needs who are able to attend school

[insert name of school] School aims to support the local authority and ensure that all pupils who are unable to attend school due to health needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all pupils with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Our policies and procedures for supporting pupils in school with medical or health needs can be found in 'Supporting Pupils with Special Medical Needs [amend to reflect school policy title]'

## 2. Legislation and guidance

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

It also based on guidance provided by our local authorities.

Staffordshire County Council -

<https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/advice.page?id=cwhbuUNF4cc>

Derbyshire County Council -

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/attendance-behaviour-welfare/support/out-of-school-tuition-service/out-of-school-tuition.aspx>

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

## 3. The responsibilities

**School Responsibilities** (to be amended specific to each school)

Responsibilities of [Insert name and role of lead person responsible for policy implementation - eg Headteacher]

- Working with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.

- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of pupils.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the local authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil
- Providing reports to the Governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notifying the local authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
- Where school is providing off site provision for a pupil - ensuring that all Health and Safety (such as risk assessments) and Safeguarding guidelines are implemented

Responsibilities of [Insert name and role of person responsible]

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the local authority.

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
  - Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school

## **Local authority duties**

This section is in accordance with the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, 2013.'

Local authorities must:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Local authorities should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for **15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.**

Further details of Local Authority responsibilities can be found in the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, 2013.'

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/941900/health\\_needs\\_guidance\\_accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf)

### **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.

You may want to add more details on areas such as:

- Who in your school will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- What sort of arrangements could be made (e.g. sending work home, hospital schools)
- How you'll consult parents and pupils about these arrangements
- How you'll reintegrate pupils back into school

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, [Staffordshire County Council Derbyshire County Council] will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

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

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by [name/job title of individual]. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

(The DfE advises that you review this policy annually, in its [list of statutory policies](#).)

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Equality and Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Add any other relevant policies you have