



Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

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Date updated	Autumn 2025
Reviewing Committee	CTL
Date Policy Approved	7 th November 2025
Date of next review	Autumn 2026



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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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

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

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority. [Children who Cannot Attend School \(CCAS\) Worcestershire County Council](#)

3. Responsibilities of the school

Where possible, the child's health needs will be managed by Westacre Middle school so that they can continue to be educated by their own school with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- In the first instance parents will be invited in to meet key staff and an Individual Health Care Plan will be drawn up. Where possible the pupil will be involved in this process. At this meeting a plan for reintegration back into school will be discussed with agreed review times.
- The class teacher working with the Head of Year will oversee provision. They will decide which member of staff will be the point of contact here in the school.
- If there is a safeguarding concern, then the DSL will also be involved.
- Arrangements which the school make may include:
 - Sending work home
 - Teams meetings
 - Liaising with hospital schools and other agencies such as CAMHS, Early Help and Social Care
 - Agreeing with a time limit, a reduced timetable, following the school's agreed protocols.
 - Making a CCAS referral

Fabricated and/or Induced Illness

In a very small number of cases there may be concerns that a child's medical difficulties may be fabricated or induced. Parents/carers may fabricate or induce illness in a number of ways:

- Fabrication of signs and symptoms - this may include fabrication of past medical history
- Fabrication of signs and symptoms and falsification of hospital charts and records, and specimens of bodily fluids, including falsification of letters and documents
- Induction of illness by a variety of means

As with any other form of abuse, where schools are concerned that a child may be experiencing or be at risk of harm, advice will be sought from the Family Front Door. In cases where Fabricated and/or Induced Illness is a consideration, evidence of medical difficulties such as medical appointment letters and multiagency working as part of the child's IHP will be key.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is 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, Worcestershire local authority may become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible. Involvement of the local authority would be by a CCAS (Children who Cannot Attend School multi agency panel) referral. Please see the link below which explains the purpose and procedures of the panel.

[CCAS Policy Statement June 2025](#)

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

- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services 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)
- 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
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head teacher, Deputy head teacher and governing body. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy Policies
- Safeguarding Children Policy

Related content:

[inclusion-educational-settings](#)

[children-who-cannot-attend-school-ccas](#)

[working-together-to-improve-school-attendance](#)