



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

This policy is informed by the Christian values which are the basis for all of CDAT's work and any actions taken under this policy will reflect this.

'Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right'

Psalm 106:3

1. Introduction

CDAT aims to support the various Local Authorities that it works with to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows so that they can reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children 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 also appreciate that the trust and its schools have a continuing role in a child's education whilst they are not attending their 'normal' school and will work with the relevant local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

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.
- CDAT and its schools follow the most recent government and best-practice guidance:
 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/269469/health_needs_guidance_-_revised_may_2013_final.pdf
 - <https://nasen.org.uk/uploads/assets/f7bff687-5e79-4c89-a0e5c7b6cfa847a4/children-with-medical-needs-miniguide.pdf>

This policy should be read in conjunction with CDAT's policy on **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions**.

2. Responsibilities

Each local authority has an Education for Children with Medical Needs policy (or similar) which sets out how it will meet its statutory responsibilities in assessing the needs of children who are unable to attend school. It also describes how they make suitable provision to address those needs.

CDAT's policy for Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (published on the CDAT website) describes how pupils will be supported within individual schools. This policy outlines the procedures to be followed if a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition, the role of individual education and healthcare plans (EHCPs), and who is responsible for their development and implementation.

The Headteacher of each CDAT school is responsible for ensuring that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented. Within individual schools, the SENCO will support the academy leadership, staff and families with regard to effectively implementing policies linked to SEND, including significant health conditions.

3. Provision

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENCO will be the lead person in the school. Further details can be found in the **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy**.

If the academy cannot make suitable arrangements, the responsibility for providing suitable education for the pupil falls to the local authority: ***“LAs are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the LA is responsible for arranging provision.”*** (*Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs: Statutory guidance for local authorities*)

Pupils for whom the local authority are arranging educational provision will remain on the school's roll unless removal from the roll is requested by parents and supported by the school medical officer. The school will take advice from the local authority regarding appropriate coding for absences, and these absences will fall outside of the normal coverage of the school's Attendance Policy.

While a child is receiving alternative education provision organised by the local authority, the school will continue to work closely with the local authority and parents to monitor the pupil's progress and to develop plans for re-integrating the pupil into the school at an appropriate time.

4. Policy Review

This policy was updated and agreed by the CDAT Board in September 2023. In line with recommended best practice, it will be reviewed again in September 2024.