



Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school Policy



Reviewed	September 2026
Next review due	September 2027

CONSIDERATION

ASPIRATION

RESPONSIBILITY

ENJOYMENT

1. Aims

Edleston Primary School aims to support the Local Authority and 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, to enable them to reach their full potential. This includes pupils whose attendance is significantly affected by a diagnosed mental health condition where medical evidence indicates that alternative provision or additional support may be required.

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 understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not at the school and will work with the LA, 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

2. Legislation and guidance

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

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

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-attendance/education-of-children-and-young-people-with-medical-needs.aspx>

3. Responsibilities of the school

School may need to seek the support of the local authority for pupils, who are temporarily unable to attend school and who:

- are physically ill
- are injured
- have mental health problems

Individual Healthcare Plans and Medical Support

Where a pupil has an Individual Healthcare Plan, Allergy Action Plan, risk assessment or other medical support plan, the school will work with parents/carers, healthcare professionals, alternative providers and the Local Authority to ensure appropriate support remains in place throughout the period of absence and during reintegration into school. Relevant medical information will be shared in accordance with safeguarding and data protection requirements. The school will also ensure that the plan is reflected in any alternative educational provision, transition arrangements and reintegration planning.

Where a pupil has a diagnosed allergy or is at risk of anaphylaxis, relevant Allergy Action Plans, Individual Healthcare Plans and risk assessments will be shared

appropriately with alternative providers and considered as part of reintegration planning. Emergency medication arrangements will be reviewed before any phased return or alternative provision begins.

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 such as:

- making alternative arrangements for providing work (e.g. sending work home)
- Liaising regularly with parents and pupils about these arrangements, using Class dojo or Google Classroom or Tapestry where appropriate

The Head teacher along with the class teacher will make and monitor arrangements for support. Reintegration into the classroom will be planned carefully between staff, parents and guidance from medical professionals.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Cheshire East Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

The school will be responsible for referring pupils to the Tuition Team, by completing the form MN1, once:

- A pupil has been absent for 15 days with illness or the school is aware that the pupil will be absent e.g., after a planned medical procedure.
- A pupil's attendance is less than 50% and they have an identified medical need; or
- They have been in hospital and are not well enough to return to school immediately

This application must be supported by medical confirmation from one of the following health professionals:

- Consultant Paediatrician or Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Consultant Child Psychiatrist
- Hospital Consultant

N.B. Supporting evidence from a General Practitioner alone cannot be accepted at the point of referral although this may be used to evidence an ongoing medical need for the duration of the tuition.

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

- Hold review meetings on a regular basis (about every 6 weeks) to reexamine the education support plan and to begin the process of reintegration as appropriate. If an Early Help or other multiagency meeting is in place, the review can be held in conjunction with this, if deemed appropriate.

Review meetings should be attended by:

- The pupil
- A representative from the Tuition Team
- A representative from the school or academy
- Parent or Carer
- Relevant agencies working with the family e.g. CAMHS/School Health

When reintegration is anticipated, school will 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 the Head teacher. 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
- Special Educational Needs
- Medicines Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Benedict's Law (Allergy Safety) Policy
- Asthma Policy

