

Policy

Bradfield CE Primary School

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School



At Bradfield we are

LEARNING TO LIVE, inspired by Christ.

With Jesus as our model, we are LEARNING TO LIVE with COURAGE, COMPASSION, RESILIENCE and JOY.

(I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. John 13:15)

Policy Name	Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School
Brief Description:	This document provides an overview of how school deals with a child who cannot attend school because of health needs
Status: Statutory/non-statutory	Statutory Policy
Other related policies and procedures:	Health & Safety, Supporting Children with Medical Needs, First Aid, Attendance, Safeguarding, SEND
Approval level: HT/Governors/FGB	FGB
Approved by the Governing Board on:	28 January 2021
Frequency to be reviewed	Ideally annually but at least every 3 years
Latest Date for Next Review:	Jan 2024
Version + Schedule of Amendments:	Written April 2020
Signed:	
Position:	
Date of Signature:	

Statement

This policy has been written using the DFE's Statutory Guidance for ensuring children obtain a good education if they cannot attend school for health reasons, dated January 2013. It states "LAs are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for 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 and must have regard to this guidance."

At Bradfield CE Primary we aim to provide all children with a suitable education regardless of any health needs they may have. We recognise that certain health conditions may mean that a child has time off school, for example if they are admitted to hospital, have a physical or mental health issue, a chronic or terminal illness. We will continue to support them during their time away from school. We will work with the Local Authority, healthcare professionals and families to ensure that any child who cannot attend school due to medical needs will receive support to enable them to access their education, and will be reintegrated into school as soon as reasonably practicable. Our responsibilities under our Safeguarding Policy to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils will be paramount in any action that we take.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Local Authority is responsible for

- Ensuring that education is provided as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs
- Have a policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child
- Have clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age

The Local Authority **should not** have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school, which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education or withhold or reduce the provision, for a child because of how much it will cost (meeting the child's needs and providing a good education must be the determining factors).

Bradfield Primary School will

- Make sure that every child has the best possible start in life through a high quality education, allowing them to achieve their full potential. A child who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peer group, including a broad and balanced curriculum
- Ensure that children with health needs and who are unable to attend school will receive the same range and quality of education as they would have experienced at school.

- Ensure that children have access to suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs. The nature of the provision will be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Contact the Local Authority as soon as it is clear that a child is likely to have more than 15 days off school due to a health need, or as soon as we are aware of a child who potentially has a medical/health need that may result in time off school
- Produce a plan of how best to support the child. This will include how any school work will be delivered, expectations for each party, details of how communications between school, parent/carer/child and the Local Authority will be managed, dates for regular reviews
- Have a named member of staff, usually a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who is responsible for dealing with any child who cannot attend school because of medical needs, monitoring their progress and reintegration into school, liaising with parents/carers/health professionals and anyone in school who is working with the child
- Make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- Work with the Local Authority, Health Professionals, parents/carers, relevant school staff and the child to provide the best support possible for the child concerned
- Keep in regular contact with the parent/carer, child, and medical staff if in hospital, during any periods of absence
- Provide necessary staff training for anyone working with the child, and share any appropriate medical information with them to ensure the best support
- Be aware of its duties under the Safeguarding Policy to ensure the child is safe and not at risk of harm whilst not at school
- Aim to reintegrate the child into school as soon as he/she is well enough

Parents/carers are expected to

- Ensure regular attendance of their child at school where possible
- Notify school of the reason for any absences as soon as possible on the first day of absence, and keep them updated regularly
- Provide school with up to date medical information about their child's needs
- Work in partnership with school to ensure the best possible outcome for their child
- Attend meetings to discuss the best support for their child's needs

Support for pupils

It is important that any child absent from school due to a health need feels that he/she is still part of the school community. We will therefore endeavour to keep in touch through emails, telephone calls, postcards, letters from peers, and newsletters.

- We will aim to support any child not in school and provide work to be carried out at home or hospital if the child is well enough
- If a child is attending hospital we will liaise with the health professionals, the hospital teaching team and the parents/carers to keep updated on the current situation, and agree with them a plan for the setting of school work whilst (and assuming he/she is well enough) in hospital
- Health Care Plans/medical support plans for that child will be reviewed regularly and any changes will be notified to all staff concerned
- The child will be involved in any discussions about his/her support if at all possible

Reintegration

Our aim is to reintegrate a child back into school as soon as he/she is considered well enough to return. We will develop a reintegration plan which will be produced in consultation with all parties involved – parent/carer, health professionals, the Local Authority, the member of school staff working closely with the child and the child himself/herself. The plan will include:

- A **risk assessment** to cover any physical or mental needs the child has. Any adaptations for access arrangements, where the child will be at lunchtimes/breaktimes, where the child will access learning, any considerations for specific lessons eg PE.
- The name of the **staff member** who is responsible for the child, and details of how the child will contact that person during the day if needed
- **Dates and times for the planned reintegration**, whether it will be part time attendance initially leading to full time after a set period, a delayed morning start time or early pick up time at the end of the day, only a set number of days per week
- Any **medicines** that need to be administered or other special medical arrangements that may need to be made. Consent forms will need to be completed by the parent/carer and a member of the school staff appointed to administer such medication
- **Information** for staff so that they are kept up to date with any special arrangements for that child
- Information to class peers and other pupils so that they too are aware of any special needs the returning child may have
- Details of any **staff training** that may be required to support that child
- Details of how and by whom the **child will be supported** in school
- Regular **review dates** set, which include meetings with parent/carer, health professionals, school and if possible the child concerned.

Attendance/record keeping

We have a statutory duty to record attendance for every pupil and to follow up daily on any absences. When a child has been absent for a number of days we will seek further information from the parent/carer and medical supporting evidence as necessary. If it seems likely that the child will have a prolonged period off school we will liaise with the Local Authority (through the Education Welfare Officer), and produce a plan (see above) which will be agreed with all parties concerned. Our ultimate aim is to reintegrate the child back into school as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of all pupils is our primary objective. We have a statutory duty to ensure their safety and welfare. We will work within our Safeguarding Policy when we develop a plan of action for any child unable to attend school because of a health need. It is extremely important to keep in regular contact with the parent/carer, Health Professionals and the child him/herself to ensure the wellbeing and safety of that child. This includes following up on any absences and only recording an absence as authorised once we are satisfied that it is genuine. Any concerns will be referred to the Local Authority Education Welfare Officer.