



Bristol Drive
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LN6 7UE

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

June 2024

This policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance with regard the rationale, principles, strategies and expectations of educating and protecting our pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Medical Conditions Policy.

Policy Owner	SENDCO
Governing Body Committee	Development
Date Approved by Governors	June 2024
Next Review Date	June 2026

Background to this policy

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

Sir Francis Hill Primary school is an inclusive community that welcomes and supports children with medical conditions. At Sir Francis Hill we acknowledge that most pupils at some time in their school life will have a medical condition, which may affect their ability to attend school for a period of time. The Department for Education states that "alternative provision and the framework surrounding it should offer good quality education on par with that of mainstream schooling, along with the support pupils need to overcome barriers to attainment. This support should meet a pupil's individual needs, including social and emotional needs, and enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system."

This policy is based on the DfE document, [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61222/education_for_children_with_health_needs_who_cannot_attend_school.pdf) and includes reference to the following guidance:

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
- Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014

Aims

If children are unable to attend school for medical reasons, we will aim to:

- ensure that children can continue to enjoy their learning and achieve well
- ensure that children can continue to make a positive contribution to the school
- listen to the views of pupils and parents
- ensure acceptable learning provision is in place for children
- ensure that parents and pupils feel confident in the support that the children receive
- support the child's social and emotional needs, by ensuring that pupils feel fully part of their school community, are able to stay in contact with classmates, and have access to the opportunities enjoyed by their peers.

When will this policy come into place?

Legalities state that the school should arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to do so by the first day of absence. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, Local Authorities should make arrangements in advance to allow provision to begin from day one.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where this policy will need to be put into practice, for example:

- where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school e.g. at home, for the child
- where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital, by an on-site hospital school.

In these circumstances, the school should 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 be aware that under the Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations, a school can only remove a pupil (from their register) who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs where:

- the pupil has been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing body at Sir Francis Hill will:

- ensure that the school's policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in school
- ensure that the policy is implemented
- ensure that staff training is up-to-date and sufficient

The Head teacher at Sir Francis Hill will:

- ensure that the policy is developed and effectively implemented
- ensure that all staff are aware of the policy and understand their role in implementation
- ensure that all staff who need to be aware are aware of children's medical conditions, and the effect that the condition and/or medication taken has on the child if the child returns to school
- assist in recruiting suitable staff, if needed, to implement the Individual Medical Plan (IMP) if and when the child returns to school

The parents of children with medical conditions will:

- provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs and any upcoming absences due to medical reasons.
- in some cases, be the first person to notify the school of such conditions
- be involved in the development of a child's Individual Medical Plan (IMP)
- provide medicines and equipment as required

The pupils at Sir Francis Hill will:

- provide information about how their condition affects them
- be involved in discussions about their conditions
- contribute to their Individual Medical Plan (IMP) if appropriate

Staff at Sir Francis Hill will:

- liaise with external agencies about how the child's condition will affect them in school and if they cannot attend school, how their learning may be affected at home
- adhere to and implement Individual Medical Plans (IMPs) if the child returns to school on a part-time or full -time basis
- be provided with training (either internally or from external agencies, such as School Nursing) if needed
- know what to do when responding to a child's medical condition
- provide a suitable re-integration plan, including support to address any gaps in learning, and provide any reasonable adjustments required.
- submit applications for special arrangements to awarding bodies as early as possible, for those children who are due to take examinations.

Learning provided

The education provided may take many forms, depending on what is best suited to the child's age, ability, needs and circumstances. Learning may be provided as:

- live lessons through Microsoft Teams
- worksheets or workbooks, relevant to the learning that is taking place.
- access to online learning and apps e.g. Numbots, Lexia.
- regular 'catch-up' meetings with peers and staff.
- regular feedback for work completed and submitted.
- regular 'check-ins' with parents
- a clear plan in place so that the child and parents know how to access support.

This list is not exhaustive and is negotiable by discussion between the class teacher, parents and child.

Individual Medical Plans if and when the child returns to school

(An example medical plan can be found in Appendix 1)

Pupils with long-term medical conditions will have an Individual Medical Plan, if needed, staff will consider the following:

- the medical conditions, it's triggers, signs, symptoms and treatment (See Medical Conditions Document for policy on administering medication)
- the pupil's resulting needs from the condition, including medication, treatment, time, facilities, equipment and environmental issues
- specific support for the pupils
- level of support required
- who will provide the support
- who in school needs to be aware of the child's medical condition
- written permission from parents where medication will be administered in school
- separate arrangements, if needed, for school trips
- what to do in an emergency, including an emergency plan in the form of a flow chart (Appendix 2)
- descriptions of extended periods of absence from school, and what support was provided during this time.

A copy of the medical plan will be given to parents/carers, class teachers and key members of staff. A copy will also be stored in the medical room and at main Reception for admin staff. All trained staff will ensure that they adhere to these plans.

External Agencies

At Sir Francis Hill we will work with the following agencies to ensure that children's needs are met:

Children and Young Persons Nursing Team Children's Services (Social Workers if needed) Educational Psychology services CAMHS Medical staff (GPs, hospital doctors and nurses)	Children with Disabilities Nursing Team Nursing Team from LCH Home Tutors
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Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy was implemented in the Summer Term 2024

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if necessary

Appendix 1: Individual Medical Plan (IMP)

Medical Plan

Name of child:	Class:	Teacher:
SEN Register:	Diagnosis:	Medication:
Care Plan written:	Reviewed:	Staff trained:

Contact:	Contact:	Contact:
Any extended periods of absence due to condition:	Support provided during absence/s	

Risk (What could happen?)	Action to be taken	Person Involved

Frequency:-		Photograph of child:-
Point to be taken:-		
Signed:-	Teacher:- SENCO:- Head:- Parent:-	

Storage of Medication:-

Appendix 2: Flow Chart for Emergency Care

EMERGENCY MEDICAL PLAN

Name of child (Class)

PLAN OF ACTION FOR ?

