

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

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Document Control	
Title	Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy
Date	September 2025
Date of next review	July 2027
Approval Level	Trust Board
Supersedes	Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy 2024
Amendments	Changed from Statutory to Non-Statutory Policy Update to Tameside medical needs policy Removal of section 4: absences (as this is within our attendance policy) Removal of links to other policies section as this is included in Document Control
Related Policies/ Guidance	Accessibility plan Supporting pupils with medical conditions Policy Attendance Policy Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy
Author	Chief Executive Officer
Policy Category	Non-Statutory Trust Wide: this policy applies to all schools within the Trust

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 the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to:

- The [Education Act 1996](#).
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018

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](#)

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authorities:

Manchester - [Section 19 policy September 2021.pdf](#)

Tameside - [Children-with-Medical-Needs-Protocol-Mar-25.pdf](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the School

Shorter term illnesses or chronic conditions are best met by school support and resources. Such conditions that might meet this definition include short term postoperative support and periods of reduced immunity.

Resources to support schools in how to carry this out can be found on the Manchester Hospital School website <https://www.manchestershospitalschool.co.uk/>

All CLIC schools will use the graduated response to assess, meet and review the needs of their pupils. The SENDCo will create a 'Team around the child' (TAC) meeting to agree how best to meet the pupil's needs. When the pupil's medical condition becomes too complex, or the risks are too great to manage, the school should make a referral to the Hospital School for additional support.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The Head Teacher and SENDCO/DSL will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents / carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. The attendance lead / DSL will conduct / oversee home visits throughout.

Arrangements could include sending work home or attending a hospital school. Work will be prepared by class teachers. The pupil may be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative spaces for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

3.2 If the Local Authority (LA) makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, or 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, the school's Local Authority (Manchester or Tameside) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. When the LA arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the sixth day of the child's absence from school. Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the LA must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil. Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is. Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
 - Manchester - [Section 19 policy September 2021 \(1\).pdf](#)
 - Tameside - [LA-Medical-Policy-2021.docx \(live.com\)](#)
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Provide to the LA, 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 to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil;

- Collaborate with the LA to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the LA, 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 LA, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's need (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).
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the LA to support this.
- 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.

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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources;
- Enable the pupil 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.

3.3 The Governing Body and Headteacher are responsible for

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

3.4 The SENDCO is responsible for

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Where a school has a Family Support Worker, they will provide a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA.

3.5 Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents / carers informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

4. Support for Pupils

- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil. The LA expects the school to support pupils with health needs to attend fulltime education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to pupils' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods: School newsletters, Emails, Invitations to school events, cards or letters from peers and staff.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

- To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:
 - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member;
 - Access to additional support in school;
 - Online access to the curriculum from home;
 - Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms;
 - Places to rest at school;
 - Special arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue during statutory assessment periods.

5. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Chief Executive Officer of the CLIC Trust. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting pupils with additional health needs, and to parents and pupils effected by the policy.