

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

## Portfield School

Policy number	
Title	Children with health needs who cannot attend school
Approved by	Governing Body
Date of approval	November 2021
Review date	Annually
Owner	Headteacher

Approved by:	Date: November 2021
Last reviewed on:	N/A
Next review due by:	November 2022

## 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 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 also based on guidance provided by our Local Authority BCP [www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk)

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

- By law governing bodies of schools have to make arrangements to support student at Portfield School with medical conditions so they can:
  - take part in school activities, including school trips and P.E
  - stay healthy
  - do well in their school work
  - enjoy the same opportunities as any other student
- Portfield School will decide what help to give by talking to parents or carers and the student themselves. We will also talk to medical professionals, such as a doctor or nurse, about how to look after students with medical conditions, and make sure that the relevant staff have appropriate training.
- For each student with complex medical conditions or health needs we will, in consultation with parents, student and health care professionals, develop individual healthcare plans.

An individual healthcare plan is a written plan that explains:

- what medical condition a pupil has
- what help they receive in school
- when this needs to happen
- who provides the help

### 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.

The Assistant Headteacher for the phase will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

We will work with families to decide the most appropriate arrangement, but this could include: online learning, work sent home and liaising with hospital schools.

Parents will work closely with the Assistant Headteacher to review the provision and ensure that the student voice is accounted for in an appropriate way.

In consultation with medical professionals and parents/carers and student we will arrange a reintegration plan and phased return to school at the appropriate time.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the commissioning Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

For pupils with medical needs, schools make individual student referrals to BCP Council and places are commissioned according to agreed criteria. Where a placement is not agreed, advice will be given to Portfield School as to the reasons why and any further action that is required.

Alternative Provision is also used to support pupils in exceptional circumstances where it is considered by the local authority or education providers that, for a short while, a pupil requires a step or transition to full time education or training. For pupils with Education Health and Care Plans, the SEND team commissions the provision required on behalf of the local authority. Portfield School Leadership Team work closely with BCP, Team Managers and commissioning local authorities to ensure the best provision for each student.

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 student

Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required

Help make sure that the provision offered to the student 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the student 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 Headteacher. 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