

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Revision History:

Version	Date	Author	Summary of Changes:
1.0	June 2024	Alex Curran	New policy

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Schools within The Mead Educational Trust (TMET) are committed to supporting children and young people with medical needs and recognise that significant ill health or medical issues can negatively impact on educational progress. TMET believes that all children and young people should be supported through illness to minimise the risk of disruption to their education.
- 1.2 We aim to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of educational provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive education within their school and the aim of such 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 school and will work alongside parents/carers, the Local Authority and other partners to ensure that children with medical needs receive care and support.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy is effective for all schools within TMET

3. Purpose

- 3.1 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 the responsibilities of school when education is being provided by the local authority.

4. Legislation, guidance and related policies

- 4.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#) and the DfE's statutory guidance: [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (2023).
- 4.2 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following associated policies:
 - Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicine Policy
 - Accessibility Plan
 - Attendance Policy
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
 - Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) Policy
- 4.3 This policy should also be read in conjunction with the relevant local authority's policies and procedures for supporting the education of children with medical conditions under Section 19 of the Education Act:
 - Leicester City: [leicester.gov.uk/educationmedicalpolicy](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/educationmedicalpolicy)

- Leicestershire: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/education-and-childcare/education-for-children-with-medical-needs>

5. Responsibilities of the school – if school makes the arrangements.

- 5.1 DfE guidance makes it clear that the majority of pupils who experience medical needs are best provided for in their home school, with appropriate adjustments. As such, schools within TMET will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.
- 5.2 Staff will work alongside families and external agencies to ascertain the best course of action to support the child. Medical evidence will need to be provided from health care professionals, and must be kept updated to reflect any changes in health needs.
- 5.3 The School SENDCo will work alongside the Senior Leadership Team to make appropriate arrangements and monitor their implementation. The school will undertake a risk assessment, where appropriate, and consider what reasonable adjustments should be made in accordance with the Supporting Children with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicine Policy. Initial arrangements may include temporary home learning arrangements, and/or a bespoke timetable, with the aim of reintegration into full time education as soon as the child is well enough. Subject / Class teachers will ensure that the learning arrangements are suitable for the needs of the child.
- 5.4 School will stay in regular contact with the family, and child (if absent from school). Arrangements will be kept under review to ensure that they are working as well as possible.
- 5.5 If absent, the pupil will be integrated back into school once they are well enough to do so, taking into account guidance from medical professionals and any other external agencies. Any existing risk assessment will be reviewed and updated, or a new risk assessment will be completed to reflect the reintegration process.
- 5.6 Once it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for more than 15 days, the school will work alongside the relevant Local Authority (see section 4.3 above), healthcare partners and family to establish suitable ongoing provision.

6. If the Local Authority makes the arrangements

- 6.1 TMET schools will always endeavour to meet the needs of children with health needs who cannot attend school. However, if they are unable to do so, assistance will be sought from the relevant Local Authority.
- 6.2 Schools in Leicester City should use the referral process that sits alongside the Policy for Supporting the Education of Children with Medical Needs (leicester.gov.uk/educationmedicalpolicy). Where appropriate, children's cases will be considered by a Medical Education Panel to identify appropriate provision.

6.3 Schools in Leicestershire should contact the Inclusion service to request support: [Get advice or make a referral to the Inclusion service | Leicestershire County Council](#)

6.4 In cases where the local authority make arrangements, TMET schools will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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.
- 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.
 - ✓ 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.

7. Monitoring arrangements

7.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by the TMET Executive Team. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust Board Education Committee.