



Olive Academies

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Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Document control table	
Title	Children with health needs who cannot attend school
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Updates/revisions included:	Added Equality Act 2010 and Children and Families act
This is an OA central template, which should be reviewed at a local level and updated accordingly – with the local version returned to OA central for filing.	

1. Introduction

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend an academy due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents/ carers understand what the academy is responsible for.

Where pupils cannot access full-time education due to health needs, the academy and/or local authority will provide as much education as the pupil's health condition allows

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority and has due regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including but not limited to, the following:

- [Education Act 1996](#)
- [The UK General Data Protection Regulation](#) (UK GDPR)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) DfE (Dec 2015)

- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#) DfE (Dec 2023)
- [Working together to improve school attendance](#) DfE (Aug 2024)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Children Families Act 2014 s100](#)

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

3. The responsibilities of Olive Academies

Initially, each academy will attempt to make the arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Provision will not be delayed solely because a formal medical diagnosis has not yet been received where professional advice supports the need for absence.

This will be arranged by a member of the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with the pupil and their parents/ carers. Partnership working between academy staff, healthcare professionals, and parents/carers and pupils will be critical.

Arrangements may include sending work home, delivering personalised home learning packs, a series of home visits by staff, access to online learning packages or arranging for a tutor or counsellor to visit the pupil at home. Any remote provision that is made will be tailored to meet the pupils needs and regularly reviewed. The Head of Academy will assign an appropriately trained senior leader responsibility for the education of pupils with additional health needs to be a point of contact for the LA and parents.

A home learning plan will be discussed with the pupil and their parents/carers and a reintegration plan to welcome the pupil back into the academy will be agreed. The academy will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable pupils to return to school and participate fully and safely in academy activities.

Some pupils with health needs may meet the definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. In such cases, the academy will consider its anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments.

If the academy can't make suitable arrangements for a pupil, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education. The type of support offered by the local authority can include hospital education provision, outreach, home teaching, CAMHS inpatient unit and virtual education.

The local authority will provide such education as soon as the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. (The 15 days is an expectation set by guidance and not a strict statutory threshold). They should work closely with appropriate medical professionals and the child's family to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child and to consider the medical evidence.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, the academy 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, the academy will work with the local authority to:

- plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the academy, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in the academy as far as possible
- enable the pupil to stay in touch with academy life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to academy events or online access to academy lessons)
- create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Any part time timetable must be: time limited, regularly reviewed, and used only where in the child's best interests, per attendance guidance.

4. Links to other [policies](#)

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Medical Needs Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Exam access arrangements
- Data protection policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities policy

Parent may request access to these policies via the school office or can find them on the school website.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as guidance is updated.