

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

New Hall Primary School



Last reviewed on:

Dec 2024

Next review due by:

Dec 2025

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on our school roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Parents know how to expect the school to react in the event that their child is unable to attend for a significant period (e.g.: for more than two consecutive weeks)
- Staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

New Hall Primary School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs and, who would not receive suitable education without such provision, 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 education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the 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 in school and will work with the Local Authority (Birmingham City Council), healthcare partners and the parents to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>

The responsibilities of the school include:

- having a named person who will arrange the on-going provision of the educational requirements of any child who cannot attend school for health reasons. At New Hall Primary School this is our SENDCo. (See paragraph 3.1)
- Informing the local council about any child who is likely to be away from school for more than 15 working days together with:
 - the reason and circumstances for the absence (e.g. is at home or is in hospital)
 - the child's needs and capabilities
 - any programme of work that has been provided
- As appropriate, keeping the child involved with school life during their absence.
- Ensuring the necessary support of the child during the re-integration into school life on their return to school

2.1 The responsibilities of the SENDCo

The SENDCo will;

- contact the parents to determine the most suitable way for meeting the child's needs
- attempt to make the necessary arrangements to meet those needs (e.g. the provision of remote learning at home or liaising with a hospital school).
- As far as is practical, offer an education that is consistent with what the child's year group is receiving in school.
- In the event that a satisfactory outcome is not being achieved, will work through the school's Senior Leadership Team to seek the intervention/support of the local authority.

2.2 If the local authority becomes involved the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcome for the pupil.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- Help to make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and is reasonably consistent with what the child's year group is receiving in school.

2.3 When reintegration is anticipated the school will 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.

3. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually.

4. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEN and Inclusion Policy
- First Aid Policy