



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Approval Date	06.02.25
Policy Owner	Director of Inclusion
Adopted by Trust Board	06.02.25
Review Date	February 2026

CONTENTS

Section	Description	Page No.
1	Aims	3
2	Legislation and Guidance	3
3	Responsibilities of the Trust	3
4	Arrangements made by The School	4
5	Arrangements made by The Local Authority	5
6	Reintegration	6
7	Monitoring Arrangements	7

1 Aims

- 1.1 This policy sets out our approach to children with health needs who cannot attend School across Reach South Academy Trust.
- 1.2 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

- 2.1 This policy is based on the following legislation:
- [The Education Act 1996](#)
 - [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- 2.2 It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):
- [Alternative provision](#)
 - [Arranging education for children who cannot attend School because of health needs](#)
- 2.3 This policy also follows guidance provided by each of our Local Authorities.
- 2.4 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3 Responsibilities of The Trust

- 3.1 All Schools in Reach South Academy Trust aim to support their respective LA and 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the School and will work with our respective LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

4 Arrangements made by The School

- 4.1 Initially, our Schools will attempt to make the arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend School.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The LA expects the School to support pupils with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the School to make the reasonable adjustments to pupils' curriculum where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- 4.4 Where pupils are too ill to attend, the School will:
 - 4.4.1 Liaise with parents from the outset and maintain regular dialogue.
 - 4.4.2 Develop and monitor an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) with input from all professionals working with the pupil, in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy. This should be part of an early help approach.
 - 4.4.3 Establish, where possible, the amount of time a pupils might be off and identify ways in which the School can support the pupil in the short term (e.g. providing work that can be done at home in the first instance).
 - 4.4.4 Alert the LA to cases where a child has been absent for 15 School days or earlier where it is clear that pupils will be absent for such a period.
 - 4.4.5 Identify a Key Worker who will make arrangements to visit the pupil twice a week in their home, following School Safeguarding procedures.
 - 4.4.6 Make arrangements for National Curriculum assessments.
- 4.5 Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined by the appropriate medical professionals and hospital tuition at the hospital concerned.
- 4.6 During the period of absence, the School will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- 4.7 Where appropriate, the School will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- 4.8 Whilst a pupil is away from School, the School will work with the LA to ensure the pupil and parents 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
- 4.9 To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs can 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 (as detailed in the Remote Learning Policy)
- Places to rest at School

5 Arrangements made by The Local Authority

- 5.1 There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example, where the child can still attend School with some support; where the School has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of School for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital School.
- 5.2 If our School can't make suitable arrangements, or if 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 respective LA (BCP, Devon, Gloucestershire, Plymouth or Wiltshire) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.
- 5.3 The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory School age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The Trust/School has a duty to support the LA in doing so.
- 5.4 When a Local Authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from School.
- 5.5 Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the Local Authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.
- 5.6 In cases where the Local Authority makes the arrangements, our School will:
 - 5.6.1 Provide the Local Authority, at agreed intervals, with the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory School age who are not attending School regularly due to their health needs.
 - 5.6.2 Work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child.
 - 5.6.3 Collaborate with the Local Authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
 - 5.6.4 Along with the Local Authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
 - 5.6.5 Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required.
 - 5.6.6 When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the Local Authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (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).
 - 5.6.7 Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the Local Authority to support this.
 - 5.6.8 Help make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into School successfully.

- 5.7 When reintegration is anticipated, work with the Local Authority to:
- 5.7.1 Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the School, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in School as far as possible, including through digital resources.
 - 5.7.2 Enable the child 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.
 - 5.7.3 Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to School, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.
 - 5.7.4 Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

6 Reintegration

- 6.1 When a pupil is considered well enough to return to School, the School will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with their LA. The School will work with their LA when reintegration into School is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside School.
- 6.2 As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in School.
- 6.3 The School will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the School and the curriculum for the pupil.
- 6.4 For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- 6.5 The School is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.
- 6.6 The reintegration plan will include:
 - The date for planned reintegration, once known
 - Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration
 - Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil
 - Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved
 - Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period
 - A program of small goals leading up to reintegration
 - Follow up procedures
- 6.7 The School will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.
- 6.8 Following reintegration, the School will support the LA in seeking feedback from the pupil regarding the effectiveness of the process.

7 Monitoring Arrangements

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by The Director of Inclusion for Reach South Academy Trust. At every review, it will be approved by the full board of trustees. The Local Governing Body will ensure the implementation of the policy.

POLICY HISTORY

Date	Summary of change	Contact
January 2025	New policy implemented	Director of Inclusion