



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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| The status of the policy: | Final |
| Purpose: | This policy sets out the arrangement the school will follow if a children with health needs can not attend school |
| Consultation: | Staff and Governors |
| Links with other policies: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEND• SEND Local Offer• Accessibility plan• Supporting pupils with medical conditions• Equalities |
| Monitoring: | This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board. |
| Date established by governing body: | 12 th July 2021 |
| Date for full implementation: | 1 st September 2021 |
| Date for review: | 1 st September 2024 |

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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

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/policy-supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs-2020.pdf>

3. The responsibilities of the school

Schools must be providing support for their pupils with medical needs under their statutory duties as defined in 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school' (DfE, 2014). It is only when the pupil's medical condition becomes too complex or the risks are too great to manage in school that this policy would then apply.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, Birch Hill we will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The headteacher and SENDCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements,. Such as;
 - sending work home,
 - working closely with the hospital school
 - consulting with the Local Authority for further advice and guidance
 - the school will also consult parents and children about these arrangements
 - If needed, Birch Hill will make a referral to College Hall at the earliest date when a pupil is too sick to attend school using the standard PRU referral form. Medical evidence from a medical practitioner (paediatrician or CAHMS) stating that the pupil is currently too sick to attend school needs.
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- The referral needs to include details of the reasonable adjustments in place and the dates of the review meetings and a copy of a 'My Support Arrangements' document. To avoid delay in provision College Hall will support pupils absent from school who are currently supported at GP level but medical evidence from the GP needs to state that further investigation from a medical consultant has been sought.
- College Hall will write to the school via email to state whether the referral has been accepted. If the referral is not accepted a reason will be given and the school may be signposted to another agency. College Hall will contact the school and ask them to arrange a support meeting at the school, where possible. The provision agreed will be informed by advice from medical professionals, the school, the views of the parents and the pupil. Where the pupil's illness is protracted, updated medical evidence will be requested.
- The plans for the longer-term outcome and the next steps in a pupil's education will be agreed at the start of the commissioned support, intervention or provision, according to the statutory guidance for Alternative Provision (2013).
- Birch Hill and College Hall will work together to ensure we are aware of each other's role, and responsibilities and to ensure the child's reintegrated back to school as smoothly as possible.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bracknell Forest will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- In line with its duty, Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) will oversee suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever the type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in Academies, Free Schools, special schools and independent schools as well as those in maintained schools.
- Further guidance is available from Bracknell Forest at
<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/policy-supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs-2020.pdf>

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 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