

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Status:

Non Statutory

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Reviewed and ratified by:

SECAT Leadership Team

Signed by CEO



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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 takes account of the Department for Education's statutory guidance: Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (*DfE, January 2013, statutory guidance for local authorities*).

The policy also reflects duties under the Equality Act 2010, ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against because of their health needs and that reasonable adjustments are made where required.

It complies with our funding agreement and articles of association, and aligns with guidance provided by our local authority.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

Education provided will be full-time, or as close to full-time as the child's health needs allow, to ensure continuity of learning and minimisation of disruption.

Where appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be informed of any prolonged health-related absence, and safeguarding considerations will be taken into account.

Please refer to the school policy for the local authority's guidance on providing education to children with additional health needs.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Southend City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education once a pupil has missed 15 days of school (consecutive or cumulative) due to health needs, unless the pupil's condition makes full-time provision inappropriate.

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 under the Equality Act 2010.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Southend City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

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- 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SECAT Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the CEO.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions