

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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| Document Title | Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy |
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| Version Number | Version 1 |
| Approved by | TPT Board |
| Effective from | October 2023 |
| Due for Revision | October 2024 |

Document Control Table

| Document History | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Version | Date | Author | Note of Revisions |
| V1 | 17 October 2023 | V Scannella | First Trust-wide Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy |

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1. About This Policy

This policy aims to ensure that suitable education is arranged for learners on roll, up to and including Year 11, who cannot attend school due to health needs. The policy intends to ensure that staff, parents and learners understand the responsibility of the academy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Prospect Trust academies except those with post-16 provision only. This policy will be amended if necessary by academies to reflect local circumstances and should a 'local' policy be required, it will be published on the relevant academy website.

3. Legislations and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#). It is also based on guidance on remote learning provided by the Department for Education and local authorities (links at the end of this document). This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. Responsibilities of The Prospect Trust Academies and Local Authorities

All children and young people should have access to education when they are ill or unable to attend school for health or medical reasons, temporary or long term. The nature and amount of educational activity they do must always be dictated by their health/medical condition, balanced with the need to help keep up with their studies and maintain the momentum of their education.

The local authority has a responsibility to oversee the arrangements made by the academy for suitable full-time education, or as much education as the young person's health dictates. Initially the academy would be responsible for providing remote learning to the pupil on their roll and should do so in discussion with the local authority. The academy will ensure that reasonable resources to facilitate this learning are in place – the nature of these resources will be dependent on the needs of the learner.

Where a child or young person is considered unfit to attend an academy, this must be confirmed with a written medical diagnosis or advice from a medical professional (e.g., CAMHS, GP, Paediatric Services, medical consultant). The academy is required to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their continued access to education. The academy can request support from the local authority. Under no circumstances should considerations of cost be a barrier to education.

4.1 If the Academy Makes Arrangements

Initially the academy will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The approach taken by the academy will be flexible and based on the individual needs of the child.

Within the local policy, the academy will have a named member or staff responsible for making and monitoring arrangements. Parents and learners will be consulted on arrangements and on a plan for the reintegration to the academy setting.

4.2 When the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If the academy is unable to make suitable arrangements the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these learners. Please refer to the local academy policies for details on when a local authority would become responsible and the process for referring a child to the local authority.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the academy and Trust will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the learner
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the learner is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into the academy successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, 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 learner to stay in touch with academy life (e.g., through newsletters, emails, invitations to academy events or internet links to lessons from their academy)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to the academy setting
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

5. Links to Other Policies and Guidance

- Academy Accessibility Plans
- Academy Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Providing Remote Education: non-statutory guidance for schools (DfE, Jan 2023)
- Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance (DfE, Feb 2023)
- Working Together to improve school attendance (DfE, May 2022)