

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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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
V2	25 September 2024	V Scannella	<p>Revisions made to</p> <p>3. Legislation and guidance with the addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 ➤ Alternative provision ➤ Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs <p>And the first part of 4.2 ‘In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the academy and Trust will...’ so as to be more descriptive of the actual liaison with the LA when the LA is making arrangements for a child’s education.</p>

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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.](#)

➤ [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

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](#)

Further guidance on remote learning provided by the Department for Education and local authorities (links at the end of this document) has also been incorporated as appropriate. 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 or it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) then the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these learners. This should begin as soon as possible and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence. Please refer to the local academy policies for further 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:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- 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
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- 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)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
- 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
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- 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)