



Orchard Junior School

Growing together. Branching out.

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Last Review Date:	July 2025
Reviewer:	FGB
Review Cycle:	Annually
Next Review Date:	Summer 2 2026
Notes:	None
Statutory/Published on Website:	No/Yes

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.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the:

- [Education Act 1996](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [DfE \(2013\) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'](#)
- [DfE \(2015\) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'](#)

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

The Responsibilities of the School

Orchard Junior School aims to support the Local Authority (LA) to 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.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the 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. Individual cases, which can be complex, will be discussed with Attendance Panel who can provide additional support and guidance.

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.

Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school because of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: a service that acts as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical Pupil Referral Units (PRUs): these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.
- Flexi-schooling where appropriate, at the Head Teacher's discretion.

If the School Makes Arrangements

Initially, the school plan to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Role of the School in Managing Absence:

- Orchard Junior School will provide support to children who are absent from school because of illness for a shorter period for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza.
- Local authority will be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of the school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged.
- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the pattern of illness can be unpredictable. The school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the local authority, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil with flexibility and responsiveness that may be needed.
- Wherever possible, the school will make reasonable adjustments to pupils' learning

programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.

- The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans.
- Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- It may be decided that a remote offer of education either via video or live lessons can be provide by the school. In those cases the school will make use of the remote learning platforms that have been successfully used previously including monitoring pupil engagement and systems for marking and returning work.
- Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the local authority to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school and may use the following methods:
 - School website
 - Emails
 - Invitations to school events
 - Online platforms

If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

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 local authority.

For example:

- where the child can still attend school with some support.
- where the school has decided to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child.
- where the child can attend school but only intermittently.

However, in situations where the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hampshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In these cases, the local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for pupils who because of illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education

without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, which have been confirmed by an appropriate professional, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the local authority is responsible for arranging provision.

The law does not define full time education but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive at school.

Where full time education would not be in the best interests of a child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, local authorities should provide part time education on a basis they consider to be in the child best interests.

The local authority should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- Liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

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, the school will 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).

- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following Orchard Junior School policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy