Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Adopted by Trustees: July 2025
Next Review Date: July 2026
Person responsible for overseeing the implementation: CEO & Headteachers

Chair of Trustees signature:

Oakley School
Date Approved: July 2025
Person Responsible for policy: Sarah Kaye

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Oakley School aims 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 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. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with agencies 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.

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- 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'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Introduction

Oakley School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children with medical needs who are unable to

attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. The school will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school. This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily is a hospital setting or through home tuition. The principles underlying this policy are:

- The school recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child. This may be provided through the Hospital School (if child is in hospital) or through the Flexible Learning Team.

When making a referral to the Flexible Learning Team, medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage. Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them. The school will foster

communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at Oakley Staff and the staff providing the education otherwise.

Reintegration

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEN devolved budget or via review and referral to the SEN panel.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters, Class Dojo.

The school will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence. The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school. The Headteacher, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Heads of School will report to the Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.