The Slough and East Berkshire C. of E.

Multi Academy Trust

Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Owner:	Headteacher
Ratified by Governing Body:	
Date Ratified:	October 2026
Date Policy to be reviewed:	October 2027

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Our Vision Statement

At Colnbrook we want to grow young people who believe in themselves, so they are confident and courageous and not discouraged from their path. They are resilient when faced with challenge. We want our pupils to believe in each other and to feel supported; never alone on their journey.

Our pupils will have the strength of character to set themselves aspirational goals in learning and life. They will achieve their best and create their own inspirational story and memories.

These values are at the heart of everything we do here at Colnbrook Church of England Primary School. They reflect the qualities that staff and governors want the children to develop and display in all that they do.

Aspiration, Resilience, Respect, Responsibility, Community, Compassion.

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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 is based on the following legislation:

- 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

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

At Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will however, 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 made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school, we would not expect the Local Authority to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The school will make arrangements for up to 15 school days.

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The headteacher will oversee arrangements made under this policy, but may delegate responsibility to class teachers or other senior leaders to ensure it is implemented effectively.

Arrangements which may be appropriate will depend on the age, ability and aptitude of the pupil alongside their medical needs. The school will engage with hospital schools, liaising regularly and keep up to date with the progress. Work may also be sent home for pupils to complete if they are unwell for extended periods of time.

Parents / carers play an important part in setting and delivering work at home. They should liaise regularly with the school and keep the school updated with progress. Work should be collected and returned to school for marking wherever possible.

When planning a return for a pupil who has not attended school due to health reasons, a reintegration meeting should be held with the school and parents. Approaches to a return will differ between each pupil, but adaptions could include a phased return on a part-time timetable, or a flexible time table approach. Adaptions will consider the pupil's medical needs alongside their age, ability and aptitude.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Slough Borough Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school 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

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- 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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy and Information Report

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