



Children with Medical Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy St. Bartholomew's School

Date of last review	Spring 2026
Date of next review	Spring 2027

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, 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.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. Please click here to view:

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs/medical-absence> and the statutory DfE guidance at the bottom of that page.

The responsibilities of the school

If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, including the following:

- Students will be able to access Google Classroom (GC) to collect work that other students can access on GC
- All long term plans, vocabulary and curriculum information is available on the school website
- Students can access online learning lessons from the Oak Academy, as directed by the class teacher or teacher of specific subjects
- The SENCO will ensure that students are referred for ESMA on receipt of written consultant advice that this level of extra support is required
- The SENCO will liaise with parents and children about these arrangements
- On reintroduction to St Bartholomew's School, the SENCO, Mental Health Lead and Class Teacher will work with ESMA to produce an individualised plan for reintegration based on the specific needs of the individual student

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Local authorities must:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Local authorities should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education children receive is:
 - of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013)
 - allows them to take appropriate qualifications
 - prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
 - 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and
 - prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that
 - limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

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 student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to form time/key assemblies from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Co-Headteachers. At every review, it will be approved by the full Governing Board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting students with medical conditions

Attendance policy