

Spaxton CofE Primary School

'Together we flourish and achieve'



Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Links: Accessibility plan, Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy, Attendance policy, SEND information report and policy, Child protection and Safeguarding policy.

DATE: 10th February 2025

POSTHOLDER RESPONSIBLE: Rachel Rood

MONITORED BY: Local Governance Committee

DATE RATIFIED BY GOVERNORS: March 2025

AUDIENCE: Staff, parents, pupils

REVIEW DATE: February 2027

Approved on behalf of Governing Body:

(Chair of Governors)

Approved on behalf of School:

(Headteacher)

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school policy

'Together we flourish and achieve'

Inspired by: I Corinthians Ch 13 Vs 4-8

Those who belong to our school: protect, trust, have hope, persevere, show courage and respect.

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- o Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- o Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- o [The Education Act 1996](#)
- o [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- o [Alternative provision](#)
- o [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority. Details of the local authority's offer can be found here: [Medical Tuition](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

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.

- o The class teacher will be responsible for making these arrangements and the Headteacher, Rachel Rood, will be responsible for monitoring these arrangements.

- Arrangements will depend on the circumstances related to the individual child. This could involve sending work home, using a robot so the child can access classroom learning from home, or hospital school.
- Depending on the circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone and, potentially, an in person meeting with any arrangements clarified in a letter.
- Children will be reintegrated back into school through the support of medical professionals, this may involve part-time timetables initially.

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, Somerset 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
- 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Rachel Rood, Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing committee.