



Bassingbourn
Community Primary School

Bassingbourn Community Primary School

Children with health needs that cannot attend school policy

Ratified on: 1st May 2025

Implemented on: 1st May 2025

Review date: May 2026

Reviewed by: Governing Body

Aims

Bassingbourn Community Primary School aims to support the LA and 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 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.

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:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-system/access-to-education-for-children-with-health-needs>

Responsibilities

Where possible, the child's health needs should be managed by the school so that they can continue to be educated there with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority.

If our school makes the arrangements

Our school will make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The following steps may be taken to support pupils.

- SENCO and Attendance Lead will make arrangements for this, once notified of the absence.
- Arrangements made will be to send work home – either in paper form or using our learning platform. The school may also liaise with a hospital school as to the learning taking place in school.
- A meeting will be held to discuss and plan for the arrangements – this will involve consultation with parents.
- On the pupils return to school, a plan will be agreed regarding any support required to enable an effective return to school.

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, Cambridgeshire County 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.

SENCO or Attendance Lead will notify the LA who will take the responsibility for the pupil and their education.

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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Full Governing Body.

Links to other policies

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy

SEND policy

Attendance policy

Child protection and safeguarding policy