

INVICTUS

Education Trust



Pedmore
High School

Aspire, Persevere, Succeed

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Document Control and Version Control

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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 reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/early-years-and-childcare/for-providers/supporting-children-with-medical-conditions/>

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

We adhere to [DfE guidance](#) to ensure a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

3.1 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.

- Andy Fisher (DSL) and Heidi Evans (DDSL) will be responsible for overseeing.
- We will aim to do all we can to ensure children who cannot attend school due to their health needs are provided with a suitable education. This includes sending work home.
- Meetings and agency meetings will be completed to ensure all are aware of plans
- Use of Inclusion Room through support of Inclusion Manager

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Dudley will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. In line with DfE guidance, local authorities must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows and be suitable for their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs or disabilities they may have) 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. (Over the course of one academic year and is attributable to one illness or condition). They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

Local authorities should ensure that the education they receive is of good quality, as defined in the Department for Education's statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

Local authorities should address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision such as Cherry Tree Learning Centre

Cherry Tree Learning Centre

Cherry Tree Learning Centre is one of two Short Stay Schools in Dudley. It supports children and young people in the borough who are unable to access their mainstream/special school due to ill health. Pupils aged 5-16 years are referred to Cherry Tree for issues related to mental health, including self-harm, anxiety, school 'phobias', separation anxiety and depression, as well as a variety of physical medical conditions.

Cherry Tree Learning Centre is committed to working in partnership with schools, educational settings, parents and other professionals in order to ensure the educational/emotional needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people are appropriately met.

All referrals are made by schools, supported in writing by a medical professional.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies, parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g., through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by A Fisher, Assistant Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust Board (template) and Executive (Bespoke)

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance policy