



# Moat Farm Junior School

## Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

**Last reviewed on:** September 2024

**Next review due by:** September 2025

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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 has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following reflects.

- Data Protection Act (2018)
- DfE (2023) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting Pupils at school with medical conditions'
- Education Act (1996)
- Equality Act (2010)

### 3. Responsibilities of the school

#### 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.

- The SENCo, in liaison with the EWO (education welfare officer), will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.
- All arrangements will be discussed with parents, relevant medical professionals and the Sandwell School Nursing service, if appropriate.
- Children whose health needs require hospitalisation will be referred to the Home and Hospital Tuition team where appropriate.
- During the period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes. The lead contact will be decided by the Heads of School.

- Whilst a child is away from school, the school will work with the parents/ carers to ensure the child can successfully remain in touch with the school using the following methods:
  - Newsletters
  - Emails
  - Invitations to school events
  - Cards or letters home from peers and staff including the class teacher.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- When a child is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a reintegration plan. If appropriate, the School Nursing Service will be involved in the development of the child's reintegration plan to ensure they can offer any appropriate support to the pupil and to provide any staff training.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil. The following adjustments will be considered:
  - A personalised or part time-timetable, drafted in consultation with the EWO.
  - Access to additional support in school
  - Movement of lessons to accessible rooms
  - Places to rest at school
  - Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.
- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the child's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- The school is aware that some children will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the parents, the child and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.
- The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage children and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

### 3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Sandwell SEN service will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

In the case of a child with an EHC plan, this will require an Emergency Annual Review to be held and a suitable provision to be identified.

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 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 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 the SENCo. At every review, the full governing board will approve it.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Whole school SEND policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding policy