



BELLE VUE GIRLS' ACADEMY

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Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school Policy

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date of Approval	Next Review Date
VDU		Summer 2026/27	Summer 2027/28

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

Pupils with health needs are supported to access education in a way that promotes their wellbeing, progress and successful reintegration into school

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2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance:

- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (DfE, 2013)

It also reflects:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE, 2015)
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996

This policy is also informed by guidance provided by Bradford Local Authority:

<https://bsobradford.gov.uk/content/medical-needs-and-hospital-education-service>

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- Ensure pupils with medical conditions access and enjoy the same opportunities as their peers
- Ensure that no pupil is denied admission unless it would be detrimental to theirs or others health to do so.
- Ensure that safeguarding arrangements remain in place at all times, including when education is delivered off-site or remotely, in line with the Safeguarding Policy.
- Work closely with the Attendance Team to monitor absence linked to health needs and ensure appropriate support is in place.

3.1 If the School Makes Arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to deliver suitable education for pupils with health needs.

Pupils will be referred to the weekly '**Pastoral Matrix**' meeting where appropriate plans will be agreed.

This meeting includes:

- Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) (Chair)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Ethos)

- Lead Pastoral Manager
- Place2Be Mental Health Practitioner
- School Nurse
- SENDCo
- Thrive SEMH Lead
- Pastoral Managers

Suitable plans may include:

- Access to a temporarily reduced timetable
- A blended learning approach (remote and onsite)
- Support from the **Place2Be Mental Health Practitioner** and/or School Nurse
- An adapted timetable (subjects, rooms)
- Issuing lift passes or assigning a 'buddy'

3.2 If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Bradford Local Authority will become responsible.

The school will refer to the **Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service** where:

- Absence is **15 days or more** (consecutive or cumulative)
- The school cannot provide suitable education

Medical evidence requirements:

- Parents/carers must provide evidence confirming:
 - why the pupil cannot attend
 - expected duration
- Evidence should normally come from a **consultant**
- GP evidence may be accepted initially where referral is ongoing
- Ongoing provision requires **specialist evidence**
- **Delays in evidence or consent may delay provision**

Additional expectations:

- Parents and pupils will be consulted before referral
- A planning meeting will be arranged once accepted
- Clear objectives will be set with a focus on reintegration
- **Reintegration into school will always be prioritised and regularly reviewed**

Where the Local Authority Is Involved, the School Will:

- Work constructively with all agencies
- Share information as required

- Ensure provision remains effective
- Ensure pupils remain on the school **roll**
- Host review meetings (typically every 6 weeks)
- Provide curriculum materials and work
- Maintain Individual Healthcare Plans
- Ensure exam arrangements are made
- Support Post-16 progression
- Provide liaison staff
- Ensure inclusion in school life
- Encourage peer contact

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will:

- Plan for continuity of curriculum
- Keep pupils connected to school life
- Create personalised reintegration plans
- Consider reasonable adjustments

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
 - Remote Learning Policy
 - Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
 - Attendance Policy
 - Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy