



BELLE VUE GIRLS' ACADEMY

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date of Approval	Next Review Date
FNI	LGB	Autumn 1 2026/27	Autumn 1 2027/28

1. 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. 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, which can be found here:

<https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/content/medical-needsand-hospital-education-service>

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

3. 3. The 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 be denied admission unless it would be detrimental to theirs or others health to do so
- The statutory guidance also indicates that schools should develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and that there should be a named person who is responsible for the practical implementation of this policy within each school. The named person is Mrs E Hatch (Deputy Headteacher).

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

- Initially, the school will attempt to plan to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Students not accessing school due to medical needs will be initially referred to the school's weekly 'Pastoral Matrix' meeting. Their case will be discussed and an appropriate initial plan to

support the student's education will be put in place. This meeting is attended by the following staff to ensure appropriate provision is considered:

- Assistant Headteacher Safeguarding and behaviour (Chair) Designated Safeguarding Lead
 - Assistant Headteacher for Attendance and Inclusion Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
 - Lead Pastoral Manager
 - Pastoral Managers
 - Place2Be Mental Health Practitioner
 - School Nurse
 - SENDCo
 - Assistant SENDCo
- Suitable plans may include:
 - Access to a temporarily reduced timetable, if appropriate
 - Access to a blended learning approach (remote and onsite)
 - Access to support from the Place2Be Mental Health Practitioner and/or School Nurse
 - An adapted timetable, including subject and room changes
 - Issuing lift passes and or assigning a 'buddy' whilst in school

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

- If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bradford Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.
 - The school will make appropriate referrals to the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service for pupils unable to attend school due to health reasons where it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, and appropriate provision cannot be put in place by school. In these circumstances, parents/carers must take medical evidence into the school which confirms why the pupil is unable to attend school and states how long this is likely to be the case. Statutory guidance states that evidence should be such as that provided by a consultant, however in order to avoid delays the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service will accept evidence from a GP if the young person

is to be referred to a specialist clinician. GP only referrals will initially be considered as an interim referral to avoid delays but must be further supported by specialist evidence in order for provision/support to continue effectively. Failure to provide the appropriate evidence or parental consent could delay the referral process and the consideration of support

- If a pupil has severe anxiety about attending school, the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service should be a short-term provision with the focus on reintegration. The Local Authority will not have a list of health complaints which dictate whether or not education will be provided.
 - Parents and the student will be consulted with if such a referral is made. The referral will make it clear on the intended length of the support to be accessed by the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service. Students will be reintegrated back into school at the soonest suitable opportunity, and this will always be our aim.
 - On acceptance of a referral, A planning meeting will be arranged to confirm the appropriate arrangements which will be put in place. The Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service will also liaise with the parents and pupils. Parents/carers and pupils will normally be invited to attend these meetings
 - There will be clearly defined objectives and next steps with the focus and aim on reintegration.
- 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 back into school successfully
 - Have a named person with responsibility for pupils with medical needs
Assistant Headteacher Attendance and Inclusion ensure pupils stay on the school roll
 - Host and chair regular review meetings (normally every 6 weeks); produce action plans and distribute notes of these meetings; produce appropriate medical evidence for continuing support.

- provide materials for an appropriate programme of work and work plans
- Maintain a plan, such as an Individual Health Care Plan, which records progress made towards a return to school
- Ensure appropriate arrangements, including entry and invigilation are made for all examinations
- Work with P16 providers where appropriate and collect and record information about destinations
- Provide the pupil's academic attainment levels including any relevant examination requirements
- Make arrangements for EHCAs and EHCP Reviews where appropriate
- Facilitate career interviews
- Organise and cover the cost of transport
- Arrange work experience placements
- Provide a named teacher with whom each party can liaise
- Provide a suitable working area within the school, where necessary
- ensure that pupils who are unable to attend school, are kept informed about school social events, are able to participate, for example, in homework clubs, study support and other activities
- encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, for example, through visits and videos.
- 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. 4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs Oldale. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. 5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- › Accessibility plan
- › Remote Learning Policy