John Bunyan Primary School & Nursery

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Reviewed by: Senior Leadership Team Autumn 2026

Next Review Date: Autumn 2027

1 Introduction

This policy is modelled on the DFE's '**Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013.**

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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority
https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Education_Access

3. The responsibilities of the school

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENDCO and Attendance lead will be responsible for monitoring this.

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Essex County council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The SENDCO to liaise with the Attendance lead and then refer to the appropriate L.A. team

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
- 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