Fordbridge Community Primary School

Achieving excellence together

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Fordbridge Community Primary School

Approved by Miss S Jones- SENCO: Date: September 2026

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Reviewed by: Ms Kath Minett-Waller: Vice Chair of Governors

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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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority

Solihull Local Authority Duties

The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The Academy has a duty to support the Local Authority in doing so.

The Local Authority should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging provision for the student.
- Ensure the education students receive is of a good quality, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible

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- Address the needs of individual students in arranging provision
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangement to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The Local Authority should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance
- Have a list of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in)

3. Definitions

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many Local Authorities have home tuition services that act a communication channel between schools and students on occasions where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment
- Medical PRUs: these are Local Authority establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs

4. Responsibilities of the school

Fordbridge Community Primary School aims to support the Local Authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

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- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses.

Where possible, the child's health needs will be managed by the school so that the child can continue to be educated there with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority.

4.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

When making these arrangements the school will take into consideration:

- The Local Authority expects the school to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to childs' timetable/curriculum where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under students'Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPS) or individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Special Education Needs and Disability Policy
- Design lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring children are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear-evidenced based reason
- Pupils accessibility and will look if rooms are accessible, or if another more suitable room is temporarily required
- Supply teachers and staff with information about the child's capabilities and impact of medical needs
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are impacting them whilst in school.

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at school where possible
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child
- Notify the school the reason for any of their child's absences without delay
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned

If a Child is admitted to hospital for more than a week, they will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

In these circumstances the school will:

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● During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the child's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes, including information on pupils levels, strengths and difficulties.If appropriate to provide programmes of work.

For children who are unable to attend school when have left hospital, due to health reasons then we will:

■ Ensure Online access to the curriculum from home, providing laptop if required

● Arrange weekly meetings to catch up with parents and other health providers/ LA to ensure there are no barriers in accessing education

● Transition plan to be discussed with clear targets and outcomes.

● Keeping students informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers

Reintegration

When a student is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the Local Authority

● The school will work with the Local Authority when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside of school

● As far as possible, the student will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school

● If appropriate, the school nurse/ community nurse team will be involved in the development of the child's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the student

● The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the student

● For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the student's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill student or their parents in the early stages of their absence

● The school is aware that some students will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the student, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return

● The reintegration plan will include:

■ The date for planned reintegration

■ Details of regular meeting to discuss reintegration

■ Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the student

■ Clearly stated responsibilities

■ Details of social contact, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period

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■ Setting of small goals leading up to reintegration

■ Follow up procedure

● The reintegration will be monitored carefully and reviewed under Plan, Do, Review (SEND Code of

Practice and the local authority paperwork completed in line with pupils on part-time timetables.

4.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Solihull Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

If the school is made aware that a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the student's needs with the Local Authority, relevant medical professionals, SISS SPI team, parents and, where appropriate, the child. If it is agreed during this discussion that the local authority need to take the lead in managing the child's case then the school will work with all services, including parents to enable a positive outcome.

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
  - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

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5. Information Sharing

- It is essential that all information about students with health needs is kept up-to-date
- To protect confidentiality, all information-sharing techniques will adhere to Data Protection Policy
- All teachers, teaching assistants, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures, via the agreed school procedures
- Parents will be made aware of their own rights and responsibilities regarding confidentiality and information sharing
- When a student is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, the school will ensure the appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to school. The named member of staff -SENCo, will liaise with hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

6. Record Keeping

- Records will be kept of all medicines administered to children in school – school office
- Accurate and efficient record keeping safeguards both pupils and staff and provides evidence that agreed procedures have been followed
- All records will be maintained in line with Fordbridge Community Primary School Policy

7. Training

- Staff will be trained in a timely manner to assist with a pupil returning to the school
- Once a pupil's return date has been confirmed, staff will be provided with relevant training before the pupil's anticipated return
- Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required
- Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are confident in their ability to support pupils with additional health needs
- Parents of children with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff

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8. Managing absences

- Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness
- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness
- The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the student is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the student, their family and relevant members of staff
- For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either one absence or over the course of a school year, the named attendance person will notify the Local Authority, who will take responsibility for the student and their education
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the Local Authority to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the student's absence
- For hospital admissions, the SENCo will liaise with the Local Authority regarding the programme that should be followed while the student is in hospital
- The Local Authority will set up a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for the student to allow the school, the Local Authority and the provider of the student's education to work together
- The school will monitor student attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a student is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school
- The school will only remove a student who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll whether:
  - The pupil has been certified by a Medical Officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school.
- A student unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the Local Authority has become responsible for the student's education.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by SENCo. 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

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- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy

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