

Carr Manor Community School

Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

Adopted by the governing body: July 2025

Review date: July 2026

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1. Statement of intent

Carr Manor Community School aims to support the Local Authority (LA) 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.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

2. Legal framework

- This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
 - Equality Act 2010
 - DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'

- This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:
 - Attendance Policy
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
 - Data Protection Policy
 - SEND Policy
 - Medical Conditions Policy

3. Local Authority duties

The LA must:

- arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education without such provision.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be absent from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications prevents them from falling behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and parents should know who that person is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements 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.
- Have clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA 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 on 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 lists 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).

4. Definitions

- Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:
 - Physical health issues
 - Physical injuries
 - Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
 - Emotional difficulties or school refusal
 - Progressive conditions
 - Terminal illnesses
 - Chronic illnesses

- Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:
 - **Hospital school:** a school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
 - **Home tuition:** many LA's have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions when pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
 - **Medical PRUs:** these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

5. Working together

- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may best be met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil.
- Effective collaboration between all relevant services, the LA and school is essential to delivering effective education for a child with additional health needs. This applies whether a child is in hospital or at home. When a child is not in school, liaison between school, hospital teaching staff and the LA's alternative provision/home tuition service can ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum. The school should make information available about the curriculum and work the child may miss, helping the child to keep up rather than having to catch up.

6. Managing absences

- 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 pupil 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 family and relevant members of staff.
- For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the school will notify the LA, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.
- For hospital admissions, the school will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.
- The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is receiving education otherwise than at school.

- The school will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where:
 - The pupil has been certified by a medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age and;
 - Neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- A child who is unable to attend school because of health issues will not be removed from the school roll without parental consent and certification from a medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the child's education.

7. Reintegration

- When reintegration into school is anticipated, the school will work with the LA (and hospital school, PRU, home tuition service if appropriate) to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.
- As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- The school will work with the LA to ensure the child can successfully remain in touch with school while they are away. This could be through school newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons.
- The school will work with the LA to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child. If appropriate, the school nursing team may be involved in the development of the reintegration plan to ensure they can offer any appropriate support to the child.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access for the child.
- Where the absence is likely to be lengthy, the reintegration plan will be developed nearer to the child's likely date of return to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill child or their family in the early stages of absence.
- The school is aware that some pupils may need a gradual reintegration over a longer period of time.

8. Examinations and assessments

- The school will liaise with the hospital school, PRU or home tuition service when children with additional health needs are approaching public examinations.
- The school will provide relevant assessment information to the alternative provision where appropriate.

- Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for children with permanent or long-term disabilities or learning difficulties or with temporary disabilities, illnesses and indispositions when they are taking public examinations.