

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS POLICY

Last reviewed: Autumn Term 2025
Next review due: Autumn Term 2026

VISION

Our Vision is to develop literate, numerate, global citizens who ASPIRE, i.e. they are: Ambitious, Self- confident, Physically literate, Independent learners, Resilient, Emotionally literate.

PURPOSE

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend the Academy due to health needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the Academy is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is based on the most recent **BCP Council guidance** “*School Inclusion Service Offer to Schools*” (2024) and the **Department for Education’s statutory guidance** “*Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs*” (May 2013, reaffirmed 2024).

The Academy also has due regard to the **Equality Act 2010**, ensuring that pupils with long-term or recurring medical conditions are not placed at a substantial disadvantage, and to the **Children and Families Act 2014**, which underpins duties relating to SEND and health needs.

This policy aligns with BCP Council’s **Inclusion and Attendance Service (2024)** and the Academy’s **Attendance** and **Safeguarding policies** to ensure a coordinated approach.

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

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACADEMY

The **BCP Council Inclusion and Attendance Service** (previously “School Inclusion Service”) is responsible for arranging alternative provision for pupils who are unable to attend school due to illness or other medical reasons.

If parents provide the Academy with evidence from a medical consultant that a child cannot attend school, the **Educational Social Worker (ESW)** or **SENDCO** (in the case of a student with an EHCP) will contact: **inclusionandattendance@bcpcouncil.gov.uk** (previously schoolinclusion@bcpcouncil.gov.uk) for discussion on how education can best be provided while the pupil is unable to attend.

Where necessary, the Academy will also liaise with health professionals such as the **School Nursing Team** or **hospital teaching service** to ensure continuity of education.

IF THE ACADEMY MAKES ARRANGEMENTS

Initially, (prior to a referral to BCP), the Academy will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will be arranged by the student's Head of Year, in conjunction with the ESW or SENDCO. This will be for absences that are less than 15 days.

Teachers will provide suitable work via the Academy's learning platform "*Satchel One*" (or its current equivalent).

- These arrangements will be monitored by the ESW or SENDCO (for students with an EHCP).
- The ESW will maintain contact with the student and family, including a home visit every 10 days. Students will be reintegrated after absence via a meeting with the Head of Year, ESW, or SENDCO.
- The Academy will make use of **remote learning tools** where appropriate to maintain engagement and continuity of learning during any temporary absence.
- For safeguarding and wellbeing, regular communication will be maintained with both students and parents, and attendance records will note authorised medical absence under DfE guidance.

IF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAKES ARRANGEMENTS

As stated in the *School Inclusion Service Offer to Schools (BCP Council, 2024)*, the **Inclusion and Attendance Service** is responsible for arranging suitable education for pupils who cannot attend school on medical grounds.

This provision may include **home-tutoring, hospital education, or online teaching**, depending on the child's medical and educational needs.

The DfE guidance (May 2013) states that: "There is no absolute legal deadline by which LAs must have started to provide education, however, LAs should arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to begin by the first day wherever possible."

The Local Authority must ensure that the education provided is **on a par with mainstream provision** and enables pupils to make academic and social progress.

The current offer from BCP Council:

- The Inclusion and Attendance Service will arrange alternative provision for pupils unable to attend school because of illness or other medical reasons.
- The service will contact health professionals directly for medical information. The service, in partnership with the home school, will monitor the attendance and progress of pupils placed in alternative provision.
- The BCP Inclusion and Attendance Service also provides **reintegration support and wellbeing guidance** to aid students' return to school.

In these cases, the Academy will:

- 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 the Academy successfully.
- 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 ensure that the provision offered is effective and supports successful reintegration.
- Initiate or support applications for an **Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA)** on medical grounds, where appropriate.
- Provide parents/carers with information about **SENDiass** should they wish to make their own request for assessment.

The Academy will ensure that communication between all parties is consistent and recorded, following **GDPR principles** for data sharing.

When reintegration is anticipated, the Academy will work with the Local Authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the Academy, ensuring access to the same curriculum and materials used in school wherever possible.
- Enable the pupil to stay connected with Academy life (e.g. newsletters, events, online lessons).
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each returning student.
- Consider whether **reasonable adjustments** are needed under the **Equality Act 2010**, such as a phased return, reduced timetable, or pastoral support.
- Liaise with BCP Inclusion and Attendance Service, health professionals, and families to review progress and readiness for full reintegration.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and guidance:

- The Academy Attendance Policy.
- The BCP Council Inclusion and Attendance Service Offer to Schools (2024.)
- The Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy.
- The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The Principal will monitor implementation and report annually to the Governing Body on the number of referrals, reintegration's, and educational outcomes for students with health needs.