



Children with health  
needs who cannot  
attend school.



Approved by Governors on: 18/11/25

Signed by Chair of Governors:  
Head Teacher: Elizabeth Hopewell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Hopewell'.

Review date: November 2026

### **Vision Statement**

We aim to create a safe, happy and nurturing environment for all our children!

### **Mission Statement**

The Orchard School strives to provide the best quality teaching and learning with an inclusive and personalised curriculum, where all achievements are celebrated.

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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.
- Staff and parents understand the school and processes for provision of education when a child cannot attend school.

### 2. Introduction

The Orchard School aims to ensure that children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs continue to have access to ongoing appropriate education. This may in some cases require the support of the LA.

Wherever possible children should receive their education within The Orchard School and the aim will be to reintegrate children back into school as soon as they are well enough.

Parents should notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay, in line with the *Attendance Policy*.

Whilst children are not attending the school due to medical needs we will work with the LA, Health Service, families, and any other partners to ensure they receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

***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 are officially responsible for ensuring education after 15 days***

### 3. Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Education Act 1996 [Education Act 1996 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56)
- Equality Act 2010 [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15)
- Children Missing Education [Children missing education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/children-missing-education)

- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs DfE (2023) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions DfE (2014) [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-with-medical-conditions-at-school)

## 4. Responsibilities

### 4.1 School Duties

- The school will endeavour to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend. We will work collaboratively with parents and other professionals in order to do this.
- Arrangements to provide education could include work, weblinks, activities and resources sent home; small amounts of direct home tuition from school staff; streamed contact with teachers and support staff.
- As far as possible, when out of school the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- Childrens' progress will be actively monitored by their teachers.
- The school will enable the child and family to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Children whose health needs require hospitalisation will be referred to the Home and Hospital Tuition team where appropriate.
- All arrangements will be discussed with parents and the Community Children's Nursing team and other multi-agency staff involved. This includes arrangements for reintegration back into the school.
- Children who have been out of school for a month or more will be supported back into school via a personal risk assessment and re-integration plan. For example, consideration will be given to (but not limited to) any physical risks and adaptations, increased fatigue, and heightened anxiety. (A new individual health care plan may be required)

### 4.2 LA Duties

If a child is out of school 15 or more days in a school year either consecutively or cumulatively the LA is responsible for ensuring educational provision. If the School cannot provide this, a multi-agency review involving the School, LA, Health Service, any other partners, and the parents should occur to ensure appropriate educational provision.

## 5. Reintegration

- When a child is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration where necessary with the Health services involved.
- A risk assessment will be undertaken and a revised EHCP may be required.
- A new individual health plan may be required.
- The school is aware that some children will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and pace of return.

- When a child is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, the school will ensure that appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to the school. This will require liaison with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

### **Training**

Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of any training required for staff to manage a child's new health needs, and how this will be provided. *(See the LA Management of Medical Needs in Education document)*

Parents of children with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff.

## **6. Associated Policies / Documents**

- Attendance Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Safeguarding Policy
- Medical Policy
- Management of Medical Needs in Education (Sandwell LA Dec 2020)
- SEN Information Report

## **7. Monitoring Arrangements**

A termly review of the arrangements made for children who cannot attend school due to their medical needs to the Governing Body will be presented

This policy will be reviewed annually by the senior leadership team and approved by the full governing body.