Policy Connections

The policy should be read in conjunction with the Supplementary Guidance for Policies (covering Philosophy; Ethos; Audience; Monitoring & Evaluation and Supporting Learning Beyond the School), Safeguarding, Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy, Children with Eating and Drinking problems, Educational Visits Policy, Inclusive Learning Policy, Single Equality Policy,

ABOUT THIS POLICY

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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. This policy is governed by the statutory guidance and non-statutory advice set out in the document 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' **(**DfE Dec 2015**)** and 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (DfE 2013).

3. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

The Head Teacher and Governing Body will ensure that the arrangements they put in place are sufficient to meet their statutory responsibilities and should ensure that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented. This aligns with their wider safeguarding duties.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. School will liaise with parents/careers and offer Blended Learning relating to long term absence of a pupil which will be practical, of benefit to the pupil and deliverable within the means of the school. The basic offer will be as follows:

- Learning Map shared with parents/carers, as usual, at beginning of every term.
- Parents/Carers directed to appropriate webinars on the parent portal (website) to support with home learning
- Class teacher liaises with home (no more than once a week) and will identify a learning focus for when pupil is ready to access activities using resources/activities/suggestions previously sent home.
- A one-off 'zoom' may be offered to help support pupils familiarise themselves with staff and peers prior to returning to school. This is at the class teacher's discretion, taking into account the pupils needs and considering staffing ratios.
- When the pupil is ready to return to school a multi-disciplinary 'back to school' meeting will be arranged to plan for a smooth and safe return.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Lancashire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education.

This would be where a pupil has a prolonged absence from school with no return in the foreseeable future. This is where pupils, despite best efforts, is unable to be educated in school. The Head teacher with the attendance team would decide upon this action when all other options have been tried.

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 and the NHS 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 and practical;
  - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life. (e.g. through newsletters, emails, Class Dojo, and invitations to school events etc)
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school following a Back-to-School meeting (where this is possible);
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made for the child to return to school;
  - Ensure all support and therapy plans are up to date and reflect the pupil's current presentation before they return to safeguard the pupil and staff.

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, Susan Campbell. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Policy reviewed: October 2024

Reviewed by: Susan Campbell

Review date: October 2025

Policy reviewed: October 2025

Reviewed by: Susan Campbell

Review date: October 2026