

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Reviewed:	January 2026
Reviewed by (SLT Lead):	AHT with responsibility for SEND/Student Welfare
Governor Committee:	Local Governing Body
Adopted by Governing Body on:	January 2026
Displayed:	Website
Next Review:	January 2027

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, 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 Oxfordshire County Council which can be viewed [here](#)
- Policies and links for schools from Oxfordshire Hospital School can be viewed [here](#)
- DfE guidance on provision for children with health needs who can not attend school can be viewed [here](#)
- This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

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.
- This will be organised in collaboration with the student, their family, health care professionals and Gosford Hill School to ensure that the expectations of all parties are clearly defined.
- This arrangement may include a reintegration timetable (organised through Oxfordshire County Council), online work through Google Classroom or physical work being sent home. There may also be a referral to the Oxfordshire Hospital School or another approved Alternative Provision provider.
- Any plan will be regularly reviewed to capture the voice of all parties (timeframes to be agreed at the initial planning meeting) and will consider the student's reintegration back into mainstream provision.
- Key aims of the provision will be to ensure that:

- Students make good progress in their education and do not fall behind their peers, particularly in key subjects
- Disruption to learning is minimised and there is a continuity of education provision within the school curriculum
- Students are able to obtain qualifications as appropriate to their age and abilities
- Students are able to reintegrate successfully back into school and that this takes place as soon as their health permits
- Students feel fully part of the Gosford Hill School community and are able to stay in contact with classmates

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

- If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Oxfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Gosford Hill School will be responsible for informing OCC of this circumstance if they are not made aware by health professionals.
- OCC's arrangements for alternative provision for children medically unfit to attend school are made in agreement with the Oxfordshire Hospital School (OHS), which aims to:
 - provide continued education as normally as the child's medical condition allows
 - promote self-esteem and educational achievement
 - promote equal access to education for all children and young people at OHS
 - work as a team with all those involved with the child to ensure a rapid response to need.
- Oxfordshire Hospital School (OHS) delivers education across three settings:
 - A children's hospital teaching setting for students with a range of medical or surgical conditions located at the John Radcliffe Oxford Children's Hospital (Oxford), the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital and the Helen and Douglas House Hospice.
 - A psychiatric unit for students with mental health conditions located at the Highfield Adolescent Unit, Warneford Hospital Oxford.
 - An outreach teaching programme for students in the community with medical or mental health conditions.
- 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 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

- enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leader with responsibility for SEND. At every review, it will be approved by the governors' impact committee

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- [Accessibility plan](#)
- [SEND Policy](#)
- [Supporting students with medical conditions](#)