Olveston CEVC Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Signed (Chair):	Name Justin Garret	Date: November 2025
Signed (Headteacher):	Name: Lee Dunn	Date: November 2025
Ratified: Full Governing Body	Next Review: November 2026	

Changes in policy
New Policy – November 2023 Nov 2025 – No changes

Ephesians 3:17-19 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

The vision of the school, along with the values and attributes we seek to instil, form the foundation and the rationale behind our decisions, policies, and procedures as we strive to inspire the hearts and minds of all who work and learn in our school community in order for each individual to thrive and flourish. This policy has been developed to support our vision that all that we do is 'Rooted in Love'

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This policy has been assessed with regard to its impact on equalities issues. The equality impact assessment has been conducted by the Head teacher and focused on race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion/belief. Community Cohesion has also formed part of the impact assessment work in order to ensure respect for diversity, alongside a commitment to common and shared bonds.

EqIA outcomes

- *The assessment found no areas of potential negative impact and actions resulting in positive impact are in place.*

1. Aims

1.1 This policy aims to ensure that:

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

2. Legislation and guidance

2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and The Children's and Families Act 2014 which places a duty on maintained schools and academies to support those pupils that have medical conditions. It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. See relevant links below:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3

https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=Sp7puUlj3Ek#:~:text=It%20states%20the%20local%20authority,of%2015%20days%20or%20more.

3. The Responsibilities of the Local Authority

3.1 Most Children can miss school for odd days due to short term colds or sickness. Parents should report this type of absence using the school's absence procedure.

For pupils with longer absences, the Local Authority is required to follow statutory guidance on ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs. This relates to children and young people who are declared medically unfit for school by a medical professional.

It states the local authority:

- must arrange suitable full-time education for children of school age that can't access education in the normal way due to illness. Part-time hours may be more suitable for some, depending on their ability to cope
- must provide education for absences of 15 days or more. This can be either consecutive days or those built up over a period of time.
- must liaise with medical professionals quickly so there is minimal impact to a child's education
- they ensure education provided should be of good quality and address the needs of your child and enable them to successfully reintegrate back into school
- must have a named officer responsible for the education of children and young people with a medical need
- Pathways Learning Centre offers flexible education programmes for students who are unable to attend school because of significant medical needs, who will be absent for 15 days or more, and whose needs cannot be reasonably met by adjustments within mainstream. These students would typically be under the care of a Consultant Paediatrician.
- Pathways Learning Centre also offers flexible education programmes for students who are unable to attend school because of significant mental health difficulties and whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream provision. These students would typically be under the care of Child

and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

The South Gloucestershire Council policy for supporting children with medical needs in school is available here.

https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/wp-content/uploads/sites/221/2023/02/9.2-BNSSG-Supporting-Pupils-with-Healthcare-Needs.pdf

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 learner;
- share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- help make sure that the provision offered to the learner is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully; and 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 learner to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible; enable the learner 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. School Responsibilities

4.1 Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school for an extended period of time. The school will remain sensitive to the needs of individuals and work alongside parents and carers to act in the best interest of the child/family.

- Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in regular education.
- Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the hospital teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the learner should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the learner with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.
- Where a child is unable to attend school due to Emotional Based School Avoidance – EBSA – the school will work alongside CAHMS, EWO (Education Welfare Officer). Referrals will be made to relevant bodies.
- For longer term EBSA based absence a referral through to Pathways Learning Centre will be made.
- Olveston CEVC Primary School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the learner through:
    - Working in partnership with the Hospital Tuition Service, to attend or host review meetings as the learner remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility
    - Providing, where required, programmes of study/schemes of work, appropriate resources, information relating to the learner's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special educational needs information

- Aiming to provide a pack of work for the learner to take into hospital with them, where learners have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital

4.2 Reintegration into the School

- The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the learner themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.
- The school will ensure that the learners and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the child who has been absent will play a significant role helping them to settle back into school.
- The school will accept part-time attendance where learners are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the learner is able to attend for full school days. All reduced offer arrangements will be recorded.
- The school will arrange for learners with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the school budget or requests for additional funding from Cluster or the Local Authority.
- Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the learner. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via newsletters or e-mail. Both the school and the education provider will support and advise learners and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.
- The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of learner progress from the Hospital Education Service and a folder of work on return to school.
- The Headteacher or SENCO will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a learner's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.
- Where an allocated member of staff, for a pupil with an EHCP, is employed they will maintain contact as the first point of contact for continuity and connection.
- School will not provide home tuition through a member of school staff. School will liaise with external providers, where appropriate, to provide alternative provision. This must be in-line with funding arrangements provided by the local authority.
- Where absence on medical grounds is over an extended period (15 continuous days or over 25 days within an academic year) of time referrals to the Local Authority (Mike Wheeler) to review whether a referral under section 19 is appropriate. https://life.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=Zv_lTe2Bn40&familychannel=2-10

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, SEND team and will be ratified by the governing body.