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Children with Health Needs Policy

Approved by:	Academy Oversight Committee
Stakeholders Consulted:	Academy Oversight Committee
Author:	SENDCo
Review Frequency:	Annually
Date of Approval:	November 2026
Next Review Date:	November 2027

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

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

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on:

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, which places a duty on local authorities to arrange suitable education for children of compulsory school age who cannot attend school due to illness or other reasons.
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (Department for Education, December 2023)
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (Department for Education).
- The Equality Act 2010.
- The Children and Families Act 2014.

The academy recognises that health needs may include physical health conditions, mental health conditions and emotional wellbeing needs where these significantly affect attendance.

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

3. The Responsibilities of the Academy

3.1 If the academy makes arrangements

Initially, the academy will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The academy will work collaboratively with parents, carers, medical professionals and other agencies to determine the most appropriate educational provision. Medical evidence may be requested where appropriate to support planning and decision-making.

Where it is clear that a learner will be absent for 15 school days or more, whether consecutively or cumulatively because of health needs, the academy will liaise with the local authority at the earliest opportunity to ensure suitable education is provided without unnecessary delay.

Educational provision will be regularly reviewed, taking account of medical advice, attendance patterns, progress made and the learner's changing needs.

The academy will make reasonable adjustments for disabled learners in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and will consider any requirements identified through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where applicable.

The SENDCo will make all necessary arrangements and monitor the progress of any actions. Parents will be fully consulted in the process through meetings and/or email contact or through class dojo.

Work will be set online for the majority of learners using Microsoft Teams and Century Tech. For those learners who cannot access online learning, paper-based work will be delivered home each week.

Work will follow the curriculum of all learners. Reasonable adjustments to the curriculum will be made for learners with SEND and medical needs in line with the academy Policy.

For some learners, other agencies may be sought to support learning. e.g. the Tuition and Medical Needs Team or the Hospital Education Team.

A plan for reintegration may be developed if absence has been for a period of more than 40 sessions.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the academy can't make suitable arrangements, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the academy 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 the academy successfully

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, 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 academy)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to the academy
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

The academy will provide the local authority with relevant information regarding the learner's educational attainment, curriculum coverage, SEND needs, support arrangements and attendance information to facilitate appropriate provision and will ensure that the learner remains a valued member of the school community through regular communication, opportunities to participate in school life where appropriate and access to pastoral support.

3.3 Reintegration following absence

Where a learner returns following a period of absence due to health needs, the academy will:

- Develop a personalised reintegration plan where appropriate.
- Seek and consider advice from medical professionals.
- Identify any reasonable adjustments required.
- Provide pastoral support to promote successful reintegration.
- Monitor attendance, wellbeing and academic progress following return.
- Work collaboratively with parents, carers and external agencies.

3.4 Roles and Responsibilities

The SENDCo is the named senior leader responsible for coordinating support for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring suitable educational provision is arranged.
- Liaising with the local authority and external agencies.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of provision.
- Supporting reintegration arrangements.
- Ensuring staff are aware of their responsibilities under this policy.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the Academy Oversight Committee.

This policy remains valid until it is reviewed and replaced, it does not expire by date alone.

IET reserves the right to make amendments to this policy at any time without notice.

5. Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection Policy