



Balksbury Federation

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

At Balksbury Federation, we believe that education is a powerful gift and is ours to give. We are committed to delivering inspirational teaching that develops well rounded and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their full potential.

Balksbury Federation is determined that all children are given the best possible chance to succeed, through the highest standards of consistently good and engaging teaching, health and wellbeing, an enriched curriculum and focussed support.

We understand that each child has individual and unique needs. We recognise that children may be impacted at times by their health needs – physical and/or mental health. Therefore, we acknowledge that due to their health needs, a child may not be able to attend school for a short period, or for longer periods of time.

We aim to ensure that children who are unable to attend school due to their medical needs, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, a child may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, children should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate the child back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a child's education whilst they are not in school and we will work with the LA, healthcare professionals and parents/carers to ensure that a child with medical needs receives the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

When a child is unable to attend school because of their health, we will follow the Department for Education (DfE) and Hampshire Local Authority (LA) guidance.

Hampshire LA have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate) for children who are unable to attend school because of their health. There will, however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example:

- Where the child can still attend school with some support
- Where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child
- Where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school

In these circumstances, the LA would not become involved unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.

The responsibilities of the federation

If the federation makes the arrangements

Initially, the federation will make the arrangements to deliver a suitable education for a child with health needs who cannot attend school.

The SENDCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. The class teacher will be responsible for preparing any work for the child.

A meeting will be made with the child's parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing the agreed actions from the discussion.

The arrangements may include:

- Putting work on Google classroom
- Sending or delivering work to the child's home
- Sending work to the hospital's school
- Liaising with the teacher at the hospital's school
- An agreed part time timetable (in which case the LA will be informed)

We will consult with parents/carers and the appropriate medical professional about these arrangements.

On some occasions, it may be necessary for the school nurse to be involved in this process.

An Individual Health Care Plan will be completed and regularly reviewed.

We will work closely with the parents/carers and medical professionals to ensure that the reintegration back into school is appropriate for the child.

If the LA makes the arrangements

If the federation cannot make suitable arrangements, they will contact Hampshire LA and request support for arranging an education for a child. This will usually be when the child needs a tutor because they are experiencing an extended period away from school and the federation cannot meet the needs of the child.

In these cases, the federation will complete a form for the Inclusion Support Service.

In cases where the LA makes the arrangements, the federation will:

- Work constructively with the LA relevant agencies, and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Share information with the LA and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, the federation will work with the LA to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the child 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 the child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act, 2014, section 100
- Education Act 1996 (Section 19)
- Equality Act 2010
- SEND Code of Practice, January 2015
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- HCC (2022) 'Policy for access to education for school age children and young people with medical needs'
- DfE (2023) 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2023) 'Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools'
- DfE (2024) 'Working together to improve school attendance'

The Governing Body is responsible for updating this Policy annually.

Policy Review: Autumn 2025