



**CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO
CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL
POLICY**

INSIGHT MAT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CHANGE CONTROL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Details of change</i>
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Spring 2023	1.a	Updated following review at Board Meeting
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Next Review	Summer 2026
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AUTHORISATION

Approved at the Board Meeting on 24th June 2025

Signed:



24-6-25

Chair of Board

Date

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Introduction

Insight MAT (IMAT) aims to support the LA and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, 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, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not attending school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs, either physical or mental
- Students, staff, and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Key Elements

Whilst this policy pertains to all employees and, as appropriate, Governors, Trustees, Members, contractors, visitors, and volunteers connected with IMAT, Local Academy Committees (LACs) of individual academies have been delegated responsibility to specify local arrangements for the operation of this policy within their academy. These are detailed within Appendix 1 of this policy.

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the;

- DfE (2024) Working together to improve school attendance
- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2023) 'Arranging an education for children who cannot attend school due to health needs' DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'
- Children who are missing Education due to Health/Medical Needs, Protocol and Good Practice Guidance, September 2020. Staffordshire Local Authority
- How the local authority discharges its duties under Section 19 of the education act 1996 (April 2024)

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

Definitions

Students who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

Role and Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Local Academy Committee

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Approving and reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

The responsibilities of the schools within the IMAT

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their health/medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their health/medical need
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all
- The school must consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to ensure the student is not disadvantaged in their access to education, as well as ensuring they are not directly or indirectly discriminated against.
- Where appropriate students with medical needs may have a reduced timetable where it is deemed access to education at home is appropriate. However, a reintegration plan must be in place to support this.
- The school must inform the Local Authority of any student on a reduced timetable via the Local Authority portal.

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

- Schools will allocate a person- and/or persons responsible for the making and monitoring of the arrangements for a student who is unable to attend school due to medical or health needs. Medical evidence is not required, however is recommended so that appropriate provision can be put into place.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, the LA, key workers, and others involved in the student's care.
- Families will be provided with a range of websites where work can be accessed, this may not exactly mirror the curriculum being delivered in school.
- To liaise with hospital schools where a student is admitted to a hospital.
- Notifying the LA when a student is likely to be away from the school for longer than 15 days due to their health needs.
- Liaise with health professionals regarding the needs of students who are unable to attend school due to medical needs.
- When it is appropriate the student will be reintegrated back into school. This reintegration plan could include reduced timetables, use of individual schools' student support rooms.

Local authority arrangements

Following 15 days of absence Staffordshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The school must contact the Local Authority via an application to Core Offer using the Local Authorities portal..

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student.
- Ensure the education students receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual students in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the student and that it is providing suitable education.

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- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child or young person from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.

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 student.
 - Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
 - Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events)).
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the Academy where possible.
- Work in partnership with the Academy to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the Academy of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the Academy with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Disability Equality Accessibility Plan and Additional Needs Register

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- Equality Policy
- SEND Policy
- Achievement and Positive Behaviour Policy
- Supporting students with medical conditions

Monitoring and Evaluation

The MAT Board will formally review this policy annually or more frequently if circumstances or legislation suggest it is appropriate.

Appendix 1 – Arrangements specifically for Sir Graham Balfour

School Responsibilities

- Deputy Headteacher in charge of Personal Development and Welfare, alongside the relevant year head, is responsible for the making and monitoring of the arrangements for a student who is unable to attend school due to medical or health needs. Medical evidence is required.
- The student hub could support with the reintegration plan for an individual. This is not an exhaustive list.