

ALDERCAR HIGH SCHOOL

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

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Approval Level: Local Governing Board			

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

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

- 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 education.
- When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child. This may be provided through the school's resources or via Out of School Tuition as part of Derbyshire LA. Referral for home tuition can be made electronically. Medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage.
- Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil 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.

- Aldercar High School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

Medium term planning, programmes of study/schemes of work, appropriate resources, information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special educational needs.
- Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility.
- Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them

Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organizing 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 via review and referral to the SEN panel.

Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both the school and the education provider will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Headteacher or SENCO will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Derbyshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

Please see the local authority guidance about children who cannot attend school due to long term health needs which can be accessed at <https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/childrens-support-services/attendance-management/out-of-school-tuition.aspx>

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions