

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Churchdown School Academy
ACHIEVING SUCCESS FOR ALL

Date policy ratified by governors:	3 rd June 2026
Date due to be reviewed:	1 st May 2027
Person responsible:	Mrs N Roberts-Moore

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs receive suitable, full-time education where possible
- Education provision is equitable and high quality, whether delivered in school, at home or through alternative provision
- There is clear communication between school, families, health professionals and the local authority
- Pupils are supported to maintain links with school life
- Reintegration is planned, gradual and responsive to need

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/17403/la-guidance-for-schools-supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs-amended-5917.pdf> This policy complies with our funding agreement and Articles of Association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

The school will:

- Ensure early identification of pupils whose health needs affect attendance
- Provide work and remote learning where appropriate
- Maintain regular contact with pupils and families
- Liaise with medical professionals and external agencies
- Refer to the local authority where absence exceeds or is expected to exceed **15 days**

The school will also:

- Monitor attendance patterns closely
- Ensure safeguarding procedures are followed
- Provide emotional and pastoral support

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will usually be co-ordinated by their Head of Year (HoY), the Assistant Head, Attendance Lead or the SENDCo. The arrangements will depend on the nature of the medical condition but may include sending working home and online learning. This will be decided in

discussion with the students' parents/carers and be guided by information from the medical professionals who are involved.

When appropriate, the HoY, the Assistant Head, Attendance Lead or SENDCo will work with the relevant professionals and parents/carers to create an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child to return to school. This would usually involve following a part-time timetable whilst they are being reintegrated back into school. This will be reviewed regularly in discussion with parents/carers and relevant professionals. The reintegration plan would also consider any reasonable adjustments which need to be made.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Gloucestershire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

If a medical professional (eg NHS paediatric consultant, tier 3 CYPS practitioner or psychiatrist) makes a referral to Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES) it is deemed that a student is medically unable to attend school. In this instance, Gloucestershire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

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

- Work collaboratively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (eg 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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs N Roberts-Moore (Assistant Head/DSL). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff are trained to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, particularly where pupils with SEND may be more vulnerable due to communication needs, social isolation or dependence on adults.

The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs N Roberts-Moore (Assistant Headteacher). The DSL can be contacted via the school office on 01452 713340 or by email at nrr@churchdownschool.com

The school recognises that pupils unable to attend school due to health needs may be more vulnerable.

We will:

- Maintain regular contact with pupils and families
- Ensure staff remain vigilant to safeguarding concerns

- Follow all safeguarding procedures in line with the Child Protection Policy

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Child protection and safeguarding policy