



Watford Grammar School for Girls

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

This policy adopted by Board of Governors	25th November 2024
Next review date	November 2025
Statutory	Yes
Committee Responsible	Curriculum Committee

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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

The purpose of this policy is to enable Watford Grammar School for Girls (WGGS) to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to health 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, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to guidance provided by our local authority and other relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to the following:

[Education Act 1996.](#)

Equality Act 2010

Data protection Act 2018

DfE (2013) Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

DfE (2015) Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

3. Responsibilities of the school

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.

The Headteacher, Key Stage Directors, Pastoral team and SENDCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. Decisions regarding appropriate intervention will be in consultation with parents/carers, the pupil and

medical professionals to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. This may include sending work home, pupil attending a hospital school or making a referral to the ESMA service.

The pupil will be slowly integrated back to school with reasonable adjustments made, which may include a reduced timetable or alternative provision for recess or lunchtimes until their health needs have been met.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

The LA should:

Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision.

The LA should not:

Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child 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 (meeting the child's needs and providing a good education must be the determining factors).

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.

Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

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 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 (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or TEAMS links to lessons and resources.)
 - 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 the Curriculum Committee and approved by the full governing board.

Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff supporting pupils with additional health needs, and to the parents and pupils themselves.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) POLICY
- Supporting pupils with medical needs policy