



MacIntyre Academies

Discovery Academy

Supporting Children who cannot attend school due to a medical condition

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Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for learners on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Learners, 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](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority. [Supporting children and young people with medical needs in school – Warwickshire County Council](#)

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.

The Class team will work with pastoral leaders and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to ensure appropriate learning opportunities are provided as soon as practically possible once it is known that a learner will be absent from school for the reasons set out in this policy.

The school uses EDClass, a DfE approved provider, to ensure continuation of learning in the event of medium to long term absence due to medical needs. This allows the school to set work that aligns with the curriculum taught in school while giving the learner access to a qualified teacher via online

synchronous and asynchronous learning. In addition to EDClass, when required, the class team may provide paper based learning activities where suitable.

Where EDClass is used as the primary source of education for learners absent from school, an onboarding meeting will be facilitated to ensure parents/carers and the learner is confident with the arrangement and can access the resources.

EDClass offer a pastoral support function and, in conjunction with the class team, will work to create and support a transition plan back in to school at the appropriate pace and time. The class team, pastoral team and safeguarding team will maintain contact with the learner at regular intervals throughout their time away from the school.

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, Warwickshire County Council, or the learners placing Local Authority 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.

Where alternative provision placements are deemed appropriate, a designated member of the SLT team will carry out quality assurance checks and monitor these providers regularly to ensure they are meeting the needs of the placement.

When it has been identified that a learner is unable to attend full time this will be discussed with key stakeholders, such as the Local Authority. This may be done formally at an Emergency Annual Review meeting, and/or via direct communication with the learner's Plan Co-ordinator.

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 Learners 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 learner 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 learner 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 every 3 years, or earlier when required. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Discovery Accessibility plan
- Discovery Supporting Learners with a medical conditions