



SIKH ACADEMIES TRUST
Faith Inspired Education

**SAT SUPPORTING
STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL
CONDITIONS WHO
CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL
POLICY**

Date reviewed: Autumn 2024
Date of next review: Autumn 2025

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

A. Background

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. SAT has a duty to support the LA in doing so when necessary.

The LA should:

1. Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
2. Ensure the education pupils 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 pupils in arranging provision.
 - Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
3. Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
4. Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
5. Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

1. Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
2. Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
3. 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.
4. 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).

B. Definitions

Children 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.

- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

1. Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
2. Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
3. Medical PRUs - LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

C. Roles and responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for:

Ensuring arrangements for pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Approving and reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the needs of children.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, key workers, health professionals and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.

- Providing reports on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notifying Slough / Buckinghamshire when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The SLT Lead - working with the medical room staff

Ensures that the following are in place:

- school nurse / counselling team appropriately support pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Monitoring of pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Reasonable adjustments for the needs of the pupil on returning to the school.
- Liaising with education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Providing a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA, where applicable.

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school 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.

D. Managing absences

Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness. The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.

Absence patterns are monitored by the Year Leaders under the supervision of the SLT. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be notified if there are concerns about a pupil's attendance (for example, for periods of absence that last 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of the school year). If appropriate, they will inform the LA, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.

- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
- For hospital admissions, a named member of staff will liaise with the hospital school regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.
- The school will monitor pupil attendance to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.
- A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the Medical professional.

E. Support for pupils

Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil.

The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), reviewed annually in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy. Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes. Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods:

- Emails
- Invitations to school events

Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources. To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member
- Access to additional support in school
- Online access to the curriculum from home
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms
- Places to rest at school
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

F. Reintegration

When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan. As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.

If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil and to provide relevant staff training. The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.

The school is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with medical professionals, the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return. The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

G. Information sharing

It is essential that all information about pupils with health needs is kept up-to-date.

All teachers, supply and support staff are provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures, via the agreed procedures.

When a pupil is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, the school will ensure the appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to the school. The named member of staff will liaise with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

H. Training

Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing with the school the type and level of training required. Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are confident in their ability to support pupils with additional health needs. Parents of pupils with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff.

I. Examinations and assessments

The named member of staff will liaise with the alternative provision provider over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate.

Relevant assessment information will be provided to the alternative provision provider if required.

Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for pupils with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for

such arrangements will be submitted by the school, as early as possible by the Examinations Officer in discussion with the DSL and SENCO.