

Thomas Hickman School



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Adopted by Full Governing Body	October 2025
Governing Body accountable for review:	Resources
SLT person accountable to review:	Headteacher
Date of next review:	October 2027

This policy should be read in conjunction with;

- Alternative and Offsite Provision
- Attendance
- Home Visits
- Internet Safety
- SEND
- Child Protection

1. Aims This policy aims to ensure that:

Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs – this would be defined as physical or emotional/mental health needs.

Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

2. Legislation and Guidance This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

The Responsibilities of the School

3. 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 could include sending work home, providing online work, providing off-site provision such as tutoring services, or working with Hospital Schools as appropriate.

4. Our alternative provision would:

Aim at good academic attainment on par with mainstream school in key subjects.

Identify and aim to meet the specific personal, social, emotional and academic needs of the pupil.

- Following the attendance procedure as defined in the Alternative and Offsite Provision Policy. (Please see policy)

Aim to improve the motivation, self-confidence, attendance and engagement with education.

Have clearly defined objectives.

Ensure staff members are informed and responsive to the pupil's possible changing health status.

We would facilitate this by:

Creating a personalised learning plan to accommodate both academic and health needs.

Regularly reviewing this plan and adapting it accordingly,

Providing access to resources required to support learning from home, including (where appropriate) online resources.

Holding regular review meetings with parents/carers and alternative providers either in person or via telephone/virtual meetings.

Liaising with other professionals supporting the pupils and the family, where appropriate.

Providing a named point of contact in school for the family (this could be the SENDCO, Medical officer or class teacher).

Creating opportunities for access to the wider curriculum, where possible.

a. If the local authority makes arrangements;

If the school can't make suitable arrangements Bucks Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The school must request this support and will provide evidence of the current provision made by the school. The local authority should arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to do so by the first day of absence. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, the local authority should make arrangements in advance to allow provision to begin from day one.

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:

- o Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials they would have used in school as far as possible
- o Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- o Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- o Staff members to receive timely and suitable training and support for the return of the pupil
- o Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made