

Supporting Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School



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1.0	01/06/2020	N McDermott	First Published Version
1.1	14/12/2021	B Manning	Reviewed . Para 2 item 2.3 inserted . Policy reviewed to ensure it is still compliant with legislation and guidance. Minor amendments to terminology – use of ‘child/ren or young people’, ‘Principal’ etc. Use of reasonable force record keeping form updated to include additional information required.

1. Aims

- 1.1. Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust aims to support the Local Authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical 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.
- 1.2. 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 child’s education whilst they are not attending the school/college and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.
- 1.3. This policy aims to ensure that:
 - Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school/college due to health needs
 - Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school/college is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.
- 1.4. This policy has been written with consideration given to working practices. By adopting this policy, a reduction in workload has been facilitated by reducing the need for individual academies to interpret the policy locally.

2. Legislation and guidance

- 2.1. This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).
- 2.2. It also based on guidance provided by our local authority <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-local-offer/support-for-different-types-of-need/medical-conditions>.

2.3. It follows guidance produced by gov.uk [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school)

2.4. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1. Devon County Council has an [Education for Children with Medical Needs policy](#). It describes statutory responsibilities in assessing the needs of children who are unable to attend school. It also describes how they make suitable provision to address those needs.

3.2. The Trust has published its policy for **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions** which describes how pupils will be supported within individual academies. <https://www.dartmoormat.org.uk/policies-and-documents.html>. This policy details:

- the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition.
- the role of individual healthcare plans, and who is responsible for their development, in supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

3.3. The Principal of each academy is responsible for ensuring that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented. Within individual academies, the SENDCo will support the academy leadership and students/ pupils.

4. If the school makes arrangements

4.1. Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

4.2. The SENDCo will be responsible for ensuring:

- a) working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children with healthcare needs.
- b) developing and monitoring individual healthcare plans.
- c) ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood and acted upon by all those involved and that sufficient staff are suitably trained;
- d) ensuring cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure someone is always available and briefing supply teachers;
- e) supporting visit leaders in completing risk assessments for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside of the normal timetable;
- f) liaising with the academy senior leadership, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- g) ensuring that part-time or online packages are available to support children's learning where appropriate;
- h) Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
- i) Keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers
- j) Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.

- k) Providing reports to the Local Academy Committee on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils

5. If the local authority makes arrangements

5.1. If the academy cannot make suitable arrangements, Devon County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

5.2. Academies must not remove a child with medical issues from its roll unless:

- a) they have been certified by a medical practitioner as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school/college before ceasing to be of statutory education age; **and**
- b) neither the child nor parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school/college, after ceasing to be of statutory education age; OR
- c) the parent has written to the academy to inform the school that other arrangements are in place for the child's education.

5.3. Where a child is taken off roll, the academy must inform the LA of the child's destination. The LA will monitor all children who are Electively Home Educated.

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

- a) Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- b) Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- c) 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
- d) When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - i. 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
 - ii. 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)
 - iii. Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - iv. Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

6. Monitoring arrangements

6.1. This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the full Trustees board.

6.2. Principals will contribute to the review and ensure any issues or successes are identified in regular reporting to the Executive and Trustees, and in the annual SEND report if appropriate.

7. Links to other policies

- Accessibility plans (Academy Level)
- Attendance Policy (Trust policy)
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (Trust Policy)
- Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy (Trust Policy)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy (Academy Level)

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Administration of Medicine Policy (Trust Policy)