



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS POLICY

VISION

Our Vision is to develop literate, numerate, global citizens who ASPIRE, i.e. they are: Ambitious, Self-confident, Physically literate, Independent learners, Resilient, Emotionally literate

PURPOSE

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend the Academy due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the Academy is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority - The School inclusion service offer to schools: Autumn 2022

This local authority advice also takes into account the Department of Education document 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory guidance for local authorities' published May 2013

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

Responsibilities of the school

The BCP (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Council) School Inclusion service are responsible for arranging alternative provision for pupils who are unable to attend school because of illness or for another reason.

If parents provide the Academy with evidence from a medical consultant that a child is unable to attend school, the Educational Social worker (ESW), or the SENDCO (in the case of a student with an EHCP) will contact schoolinclusion@bcpcouncil.gov.uk for further discussion on how education can best be provided while the pupil is unable to attend.

If the school makes arrangements

Initially, (prior to a referral to BCP), the Academy will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will be arranged by the student's Head of House, in conjunction with the ESW or SENDCO. This will be for absences that are less than 15 days.

- Teachers will be required to provide suitable work via the Academy's learning platform, 'Show my Homework'.
- These arrangements will be monitored by the ESW or SENDCO (in the case of an EHCP student)
- The ESW will retain contact with the student and family. This will include a home visit every ten days
- Students will be re-integrated after a period of absence via a meeting with the Head of House, ESW or SENDCO

If the local authority makes arrangements

As stated in the 'School inclusion service offer to schools: Autumn 2022', BCP Council are responsible for arranging suitable education for pupils who cannot attend school on medical grounds.

The Department of Education document 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory guidance for local authorities' published May 2013 states that 'there is no absolute legal deadline by which LAs must have started to provide education for children with additional health needs (unlike for excluded children, where provision must begin by the sixth day of the exclusion). LAs should, however, 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, LAs should make arrangements in advance to allow provision to begin from day one'.

The current offer from BCP council:

- The Inclusion team will arrange alternative provision for pupils who are unable to attend school because of illness or for another reason.
- The inclusion team will contact health professionals directly for medical information
- The Inclusion team will, in partnership with their home school, monitor the attendance and progress of pupils placed in alternative provision for the reasons listed above.

In these cases, the Academy 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 the Academy successfully
- Initiate an application for an Education and Health Needs Assessment on medical grounds, where the Academy feel they are the most appropriate body of professionals to do so
- Support any health professional who requests an Education and Health Needs Assessment for the student, on medical grounds
- Give the parent/carer information about SENDIass, should they wish to make a parental/carer request for an Education and Health Needs Assessment on medical grounds

When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:

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

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and guidance:

- The Academy Attendance Policy
- The BCP Council School Inclusion service offer to schools: Autumn 2022

Monitoring arrangements

Reviewed by the Governing Body in March 2024