Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Approved by:	CLT Board of Trustees	**Date:**
Last reviewed on:	Autumn 2026	
Next review due by:	Autumn 2027	

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- A good education for children who cannot attend school because of 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.

It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority. Ref: DEF-00307-

This policy complies with CLT's funding and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 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.

- Consulting with parents and children about the most appropriate arrangements
- Liaising with parents to determine the child's programme of study whilst they are absent from school
- Actively monitoring pupil progress
- Plan arrangements to reintegrate children into school by setting a meeting and reintegration plan, establishing any potential barriers to learning and ensuring the plan seeks to overcome these
- Keep children informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers
- Arrangements made would include sending work home, set using Google Classroom, providing communication via the class teachers and SENDCo liaising with hospital schools

The named member of staff is Mrs Hannah Hartley

You can contact her by email to the school office office@larkrise.com or by telephoning the school 01582 607852

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, **Central Bedfordshire's Medical Needs Team** will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The Medical Needs Team provide teaching and support for children and young people of statutory school age and on the roll of a school who, due to illness, require suitable alternative arrangements for their education for the period of that illness.

Teaching is provided for children whose education is disrupted for an initial period exceeding three weeks, due to:

- An illness or injury keeping the pupil away from school whilst recovering
- An illness or injury requiring regular hospital attendance
- A chronic condition that causes frequent absences from school
- A mental illness requiring therapeutic support

The service provides high quality teaching, mainly in the three core subjects of maths, science and English, as a way of supporting reintegration back into school.

In the main, education takes place in a child's home environment. However, where the child is able, education takes place in other buildings and may be in small groups. Children remain on the roll at Lark Rise Academy and the medical needs teachers work in partnership with Lark Rise.

School to ensure continuity and progression for the child, taking account of medical advice. Lark Rise and the Medical Needs Team support reintegration of children where the medical advice supports their readiness to return to school.

Details about education for children who are unable to attend school are available on the Central Bedfordshire council website https://localoffer.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/centralbedfordshire/directory/service.page?id=_FQPUnT1ONo

See Appendix 1, 2 and 3.

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:
    - 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
    - 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)
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Hannah Hartley (Head of School). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Appendix 1

Medical Needs Eligibility Criteria

AIMS

- To offer a tailored programme of education to assist pupils' reintegration into school after a medical illness
- To support and advise schools on skills and strategies to aid reintegration to school
- To engage with parents and carers to enable them to help their child with learning strategies while coping with a medical condition
- To liaise with and signpost to other agencies for further support

WHO IS THE SERVICE FOR?

- Pupils of statutory school age resident in Central Bedfordshire
- Pupils should be on a school roll
- Pupils who have planned absences from school for a significant period for a medical reason
- Pupils whose attendance has been affected due to a medical reason – 15 days or more
- Pupils reintegrating back into school following a period of absence due to a medical reason
- If the education being provided at home for EHE is deemed inappropriate and there is clear medical evidence to support MNET intervention a referral can be made

Eligibility Criteria

- Referrals are to be made by schools to the Medical Needs Education Team
- All referrals should include the medical referral form signed by the relevant medical practitioner – if a GP signs the form a referral should be made by them for further support for the young person
- A referral can be completed by a recognised provider in relation to a private or independent assessment
- Pupils should engage with the appropriate healthcare package and attend their healthcare appointments
- The first 3 weeks (15 days) of absence remains school's responsibility

Appendix 2

Parent and Carer Information

https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/centralbedfordshire/directory/files/parents_carers_information.pdf

Appendix 3

Medical Needs Referral form

https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/centralbedfordshire/directory/files/mn_referral_form.pdf

Central Bedfordshire Council
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire

MEDICAL NEEDS EDUCATION TEAM

REQUEST FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT INVOLVEMENT

Please use guidelines overleaf

The Local Authority (LA) expects all children and young people to have a suitable education and thereby have access to the full curriculum or as much as their medical condition will allow. The aim of the Medical Needs Education Team is to teach pupils too ill to access a suitable education at school and to plan a reintegration programme with the family and school, to support the pupil back into mainstream education at the earliest opportunity.

A referral to the Medical Needs Education Team will be requested by the child's school, the medical information given provided on this form supports the school referral and should be returned to the school. The school complete the referral and submit it to the Medical Needs Education Team

1. To be completed by the School's Named Contact for Pupils with Medical Needs:		
Name of Pupil:	**Date of Birth:**	**Year Group:**
Pupil Address:		
School Name:	**School Telephone No:**	
Last date pupil attended school regularly:		