Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinators	Nominated Governor
October 2026	October 2027	Sarah Woodhouse	Michelle Hogan-Tricks

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to 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 is based on the following legislation:

The Education Act 1996

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

Alternative provision

Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy also follows guidance provided by Hackney, our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The class teacher will provide work and monitor engagement and progress of the pupil
- Work will be provided in-line with the National Curriculum. This may be via Google Classroom, email or be made available for parents/carers to collect from the school office on a weekly basis.
- Parents/carers and pupils will be consulted on their preferred method of delivery
- The school will endeavour to provide the technology or resources required to access the curriculum from home
- Pupils being integrated back into school following a period of absence will receive support from the school Learning Mentor, Nick James.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Hackney Education will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests. Hackney Education Alternative Learning Service (HEALS) has oversight for ensuring children in Hackney are able to access a suitable, full time education that allows them to achieve and thrive.

- A referral to the Hackney Education Alternative Learning Service (HEALS) will be made if the pupil is temporarily absent (or due to be absent) for at least 15 consecutive school days (in a row) or absent (or due to be absent) for at least 15 days over the course of the current academic year - due to medical reasons, including mental and physical ill-health.
- A referral will be made by the school SENCO. The referral must be supported by medical guidance from a Consultant level Doctor (not usually a GP) for physical health conditions or a CAMHS clinician for mental health needs.
- HEALS support is available to all children aged between 5 and 16 and who are resident in Hackney or attend a Hackney school.

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
    - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Sarah Woodhouse, SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by a nominated governor.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Headteacher:	Aoife O'Grady	**Date:**	October 2026
Chair of Governing Body:	Mari-Anne Chiromo	**Date:**	October 2026