

Templefield Lower School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school



Templefield Lower School

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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority.

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [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 our local authority.

Responsibilities of the school

If the school makes the 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 SENCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

We will contact and consult with parents/carers about the most appropriate arrangements. It is most likely that the class teacher will be asked to provide work for the child.

We will coordinate the reintegration of the child in consultation with parents/carers and medical professionals, where appropriate.

If the local authority makes the 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 a year) or more because of their health needs, Central Bedfordshire Council's Medical Needs Education Team will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, this should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the sixth 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.

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

- 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.
- 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, the school will 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.
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events).
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Medical Needs Education Team

The Medical Needs Education Team provides teaching and support for children of statutory school age who are on the roll of a school and who, due to illness, require suitable alternative arrangements for their education whilst they are unwell.

Teaching is provided for children whose education is disrupted for 15 days or more due to:

- An operation, illness or injury keeping the child away from school whilst recovering
- An illness or injury requiring regular hospital attendance
- A medical 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 English, Maths and Science, as a way of supporting reintegration back into school.

The education can take place in the child's home environment. However, when the child is able and health supports this, their education can take place in other buildings and may be in small groups, with reintegration being the ultimate goal. .

Children remain on the roll of their school, and the Medical Needs Education Team teachers work in partnership with the school, parents/carers and family to ensure continuity and progression for the child, taking account of medical advice. The school and the Medical Needs Education Team support reintegration of children where the medical advice supports their readiness to return to school.

Referrals are made from the school to the medical needs service by calling 0300 300 8038 or emailing medicalteam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Further information

[Medical Needs Education Team Information for Parents/Carers](#)

[Medical Needs Eligibility Criteria](#)

[Medical Needs Referral Form](#)

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the governing body.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Approved: February 2026

Last reviewed: November 2025

Next review: November 2026