



LIONHEART
SCHOOL

Children Who Cannot Attend School Due to Medical Needs Policy

July 2025 – July 2028



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Introduction

The statutory guidance produced by the DfE relating to children who cannot attend school due to medical needs will be followed in such a circumstance.

General Guidance

The general guidance states that “LAs are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the LA is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to this guidance.”

In circumstances where a child may be able to access some school time whilst also attending medical appointments, the SENDCo will liaise with the LA, Medical professionals and family to agree a plan of support to agree arrangements for their time in school.

We will adopt a flexible approach where necessary to ensure treatment can be accessed, convalescence carried out and resettlement undertaken if this is in the best interest of the child.

Current Guidance

‘The law does not specify the point during a child’s illness when it becomes the LA’s responsibility to secure for the child suitable full-time education. Schools would usually provide support to children who are absent from school because of illness for a shorter period, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza. In some cases, where a child is hospitalised, the hospital may provide education for the child within the hospital and the LA would not need to arrange any additional education, provided it is satisfied that the child is receiving suitable education. More generally, LAs should be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged.’

In all circumstances where clarification is required, this will take place with the appropriate LA officer.