



Frizinghall Primary School

# Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Approved by the governing body on: Autumn 2 2023

To be reviewed on: Autumn 2 2024

Signed on behalf of the governing body: P Sayers

## Contents

<u>1. Aims</u> .....	2
<u>2. Legislation and guidance</u> .....	2
<u>3. The responsibilities of the school</u> .....	2
<u>4. Monitoring arrangements</u> .....	3
<u>5. Links to other policies</u> .....	3

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### **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 reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority (Bradford).

### **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.

The Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. The school will work with parents/carers to send suitable work home, as required. Plans to support reintegration back into school will be developed with all relevant stakeholders e.g. parents/carers, medical professionals, the pupil (where appropriate).

As required, school will contact the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service Manager (contact details available on Bradford Schools Online) in order to obtain support, advice and guidance in relation to medical needs provision. This manager is able to liaise with both health and education professionals and colleagues in order to ensure children with additional health needs are able to access a suitable education.

#### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bradford LA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Bradford LA's policy 'Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs' outlines that:

'The school should make appropriate referrals to the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service (MNHES) for pupils unable to attend school due to health reasons where it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. The Assistant Head for Inclusion will work with the specialist teachers in the service to ensure the referral is appropriate. In these circumstances, parents/carers must

take medical evidence in to the school which confirms why the pupil is unable to attend school and states how long this is likely to be the case. Statutory guidance states that evidence should be such as that provided by a consultant, however in order to avoid delays the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service will accept evidence from a GP if the young person is to be referred to a specialist clinician. GP only referrals will initially be considered as an interim referral in order to avoid delays, but must be further supported by specialist evidence in order for provision/support to continue effectively. Failure to provide the appropriate evidence or parental consent could delay the referral process and the consideration of support.

Once the Referral Form and evidence has been considered and a decision about the referral has been made, the Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service will notify the school accordingly. A planning meeting will be arranged to confirm the appropriate arrangements which will be put in place. The Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service will also liaise with the parents and pupil. Parents/carers and pupils will normally be invited to attend these meetings. The MNHES will be in contact with the school with regard to attendance. The 'B' code will be added to SIMS when the sessions take place. At the end of the episode of support, the specialist teachers will meet with school staff to offer an update on the progress of the child. This will help with the transition back into school.

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 the Headteacher. 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

