


JFS Policies – Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School – January 2024

Headteacher	Chair of Governing Board
	
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Aims of this Policy

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.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996 section 19](#), and the statutory guidance [Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of a medical need](#). The [Equality Act 2010](#) is also an important part of the legal framework around children and young people with significant medical needs.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Medical Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Policy

Responsibilities of the school

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Attendance Officer and Designated Safeguarding lead will lead in any relevant cases with the support of Head of Key Stage and any other appropriate JFS staff.

Students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs and the nature of the educational provision made must be responsive to the demands of a changing medical status. This may include:

- Sending work home
- Home tuition
- Hospital school
- Alternative provision

Where the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the relevant local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. The school working with the relevant local authority, must arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

Working with External Organisations

The school will work with all external organisations as necessary. These include, but are not limited to:

- CAMHS
- Professional medical services

- Private or NHS GPs/specialists
- Hospital schools
- Local Authority

In Brent, students may be referred to the [Brent Children's Specialist Community Nursing Service | Brent Council](https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/children-and-family-support/the-brent-local-offer/send-local-offer-directory/brent-children-s-specialist-community-nursing-service/) (<https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/children-and-family-support/the-brent-local-offer/send-local-offer-directory/brent-children-s-specialist-community-nursing-service/>), (or similar body in the relevant local authority) which aims to support parents and carers to deliver nursing intervention to children with acute and chronic complex health needs.

Provision

Any arrangements made should be flexible and reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the student. JFS should work in partnership with students, parents/ carers, the relevant local authority, medical and educational professionals to ensure the best possible outcome for each student.

Public examinations

Arrangements should be made for children to sit public examinations, at an appropriate level, if a consultant / medical professional feels this is in the child's best interest. Appropriate access arrangements will be organised in agreement with the host school/provision.

Working together – with parents/carers, children, health services and local authority

Any educational provision for a child with additional health needs will be discussed with parents/carers first. Parents/carers have a key role to play in their child's education and can provide helpful information to ensure that the teaching approach is successful. In the case of a looked after child, local authority representatives and primary carers would fulfil this role. Children will also be involved in decisions, their engagement dependent on their age and maturity. This supports the school in providing the right educational provision with which the child is able to engage.

Reintegration into School

When reintegration into school is anticipated, the school will work closely with any external organisations – for example the Hospital and Home Teaching Team - to ensure that students receive the necessary support they need to facilitate this process. A member of the school will hold a meeting with the appropriate external organisation and the student's parents/carers.

In many cases a gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable. Appropriate external professionals may work alongside a student when they are returning to school so a good handover takes place and the student feels confident in their return.

Students who are self-harming/coping with an eating disorder will be expected to attend an appointment with a CAMHS consultant or similar, to assess and ensure that the student is safe to attend school before they return. Appropriate work will be provided if there is a delay in the ability to have an appointment with a suitably qualified medical professional.