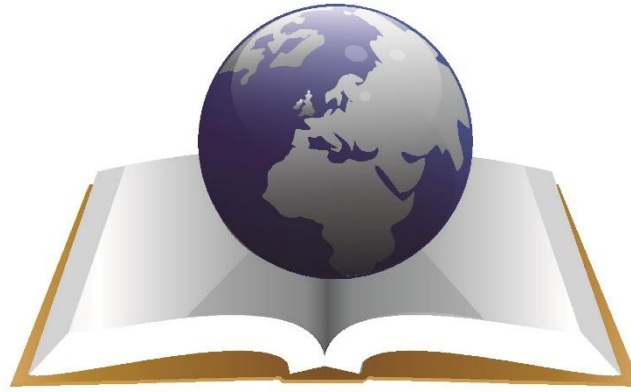




Battle Primary Academy
Empowering Opportunity

Name of Policy	Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy
Scope of Policy	All Students with health needs who cannot attend
Approved by	Board of Trustees
Date of Approval	September 2026
Review period	Annually
Review Date	September 2027

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER



**THAMES LEARNING
TRUST**

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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

The Education Act 1996

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2024/208/contents>

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

Alternative provision

Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

The school will liaise with the hospital schools' team if the pupil is hospital based. For those pupils who are at home but unable to attend school, the SENCo will work with outside professionals and the local authority to adjust the provision available.

3.1 If our 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 is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.
- The school will provide the hospital schools team with up-to-date information about the pupil's academic needs. Further support may include, but is not limited to, sending work home or offering remote learning via a suitable platform.
- The SENCo will meet with parents/carers and relevant professionals, where appropriate, to agree the support and education the pupil needs. An individual healthcare plan will be developed where needed.

- Necessary adjustments required to allow the pupil to make a successful return to school will be explored and considered.
- The attendance lead will alert the SENCo when a pupil's health-related absence is likely to be prolonged or repeated. The SENCo will discuss the pupil's needs with their parents/carers, teachers and relevant professionals, agree suitable learning arrangements and review them regularly. Where a return to school is anticipated, the SENCo will work with the family and staff to plan any support or reasonable adjustments needed. Where the school cannot provide suitable education, or an absence of 15 school days or more is expected, the SENCo will contact Reading Borough Council promptly.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If it becomes clear that a pupil will miss 15 school days or more because of health needs, whether consecutively or cumulatively during the school year, or if the school cannot arrange suitable education, the SENCo will contact Reading Borough Council promptly. We will work with the local authority to establish what education is needed and who will arrange it. The school will continue to share curriculum information, support the pupil's connection with school and plan for their return. We will not wait until the pupil has already missed 15 days before seeking support.

Where Reading Borough Council arranges alternative education, we will work with the council so that provision can begin as soon as possible. Department for Education guidance says that it should begin no later than the sixth day of the pupil's absence. Where an absence is planned, we will contact the council early so that arrangements can be made in advance.

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:

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 the Principal. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions