



FAIRFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Isaiah 49:16 'I have written your name on the palms of my hands'.

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is loved and known by God.

Fairford C of E Primary School



Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Vision and Values

Our school vision is: *Isaiah 49:16 "I have written your name on the palms of my hands".*

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is known and loved by God.

At Fairford Primary School we have chosen those values that best reflect our thoughts as a school and community

Perseverance

Friendship

Respect

Forgiveness

Trust

Thankfulness

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs; and
- 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](#)
- Pupils with health needs Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/your-pupils/pupils-with-health-needs/>

3. When a Child Cannot Attend School Due to Medical Needs

3.1 If the school makes arrangements:

3.1.1 When children and young people are unable to continue at school because of any medical condition, the Education Act 1996 requires Local Education Authorities to provide them with 'suitable education' for example in a hospital school or in home tuition. Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

3.1.2 Suitable education means education suitable to the child or young person's age, ability, and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have. As the school's *Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy states*, it is the responsibility of the school to continue to provide education for a pupil who can access school with adjustments even if these are significant adjustments (often determined through a MyPlan+ or EHCP process).

- These arrangements will be approved by the head teacher
- They will be made by the SENDCo liaising with the class teacher and will take into consideration the views of the parents and the child.
- Monitoring of their effectiveness will be carried out by the SENDCo.

Support in the home is only provided due to the medical needs of the child and must not be the result of the school not making the appropriate adjustments to keep a child in school.

3.1.3 If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will need to be signed off school by a medical professional. There is no official 'sick notes' or 'fit notes' for children from medical professionals; however, a referral accepted by Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service, where a medical professional has confirmed a child or young person is medically unable to attend school even with adjustments, is effectively this.

In those circumstances the following will occur:

3.1.4 Arrangements will be made, if suitable, to send work home.

3.1.5 The school will consult with parents, families and pupils about these arrangements.

3.1.6. The school will work with parents, families and pupils to reintegrate pupils back into school at the appropriate time.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements:

3.2.1 If the school cannot make suitable arrangements for a child with medical needs, Gloucestershire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children and must do so as soon as a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

3.2.2 A referral to Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service (GHES) should be made when a pupil is, or will be, medically unable to attend school and this is likely to be for a period of at least 15 days or more (for example, when necessary for surgical recovery).

3.2.3 A copy of the referral form can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council website on the 'Hospital Education Service' web page. The referral form is generally completed by an NHS paediatric consultant (or tier 3 CYPS practitioner or psychiatrist). The referrer is asked to provide detailed information about the pupil, including:

- confirmation that the pupil is medically unable to attend school.

- the reason for the absence (the medical condition).
- the likely duration of absence from school; and
- the amount of education (in hours) that is suitable for the young person, considering their medical condition and the intensity of one-to-one tuition

3.2.4 For access to referral forms and full information on Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service go to the Gloucestershire County Council website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ghes. GHES works in partnership with the home-school to ensure continuity of education whilst a child or young person is unable to attend school.

3.3 When a Child is in Hospital – the Role of the School:

3.3.1 Children and young people can be in hospital long-term or short-term. It is a requirement for any paediatric inpatients unit to have an education facility attached. In cases where the local authority decides for the education of one of its pupils, the school will:

- Work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies, and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil. Fairford Primary School will follow good practice and maintain contact with pupils when in hospital, particularly when this is for more than just a few days. In the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital Schoolroom (GRH Schoolroom) for example, run by the Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service, the schoolroom considers any pupil having had more than 4 days in the hospital schoolroom as a ‘significant access pupil’. Contact from the home-school is therefore indicated at this point (or earlier).
- Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required. The school will contact the hospital school and share key information about the pupil that will help the hospital school; for example, the school will share any safeguarding information which the Designated Safeguarding Lead has on file about the child that may help the hospital school keep the child or young person safe.
- Help to 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. Sharing the child’s current academic attainment will help to inform the hospital school’s teaching, including any specific learning needs. Hospital schools, wherever possible, aim to assist with continuity of education so it is helpful when schools share the work their pupils are missing and need to complete.
- 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 (for example, 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, considering whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to ensure suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.

*The reintegration plan will include.

- the date for the planned integration, once known.
- details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
- details of a named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil; and
- clear details of the responsibilities of those involved in the plan.

The school is aware that some pupils will need a gradual reintegration over a long period and will work closely with parents, the pupil and key school staff at all stages in the planning

Reference will be made to the DfE document “Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

3.4 Dual Registration:

3.4.1 As pupils are dual-registered between the hospital provision and the home-school, it is important for Fairford Primary School to check that it is satisfied with the provision that the pupils are accessing on a dual-registered basis. The school will request copies of the hospital school’s child protection policy so that it has the name of the designated safeguarding lead of the hospital school, for example, and can ensure that robust child protection processes and procedures are in place.

3.4.2 Essentially, pupils in hospital schools are pupils being educated off-site. Unlike other Alternative Provision, schools do not have a choice about where pupils are placed in hospital as this is a medical decision and a medical placement. However, the head teacher of Fairford Primary School should satisfy herself as to the quality and safety of this provision.

3.4.3 Sometimes, due to a shortage of beds for mental health inpatients or due to specialist consultants only being available in certain hospitals, pupils can be sent to hospital miles away from home. The landscape of hospital schools is changing, and more and more private hospital schools are registering with Ofsted for the first time, and private hospitals are able to charge the LA for this provision. All this means that it is ever more important for Fairford Primary School to keep in

contact with any pupils who are being educated in hospital provision and maintain its role in the child's education and safeguarding.

3.5 Safeguarding – Additional Pressures

- In accordance with good practice the school will communicate with the hospital school on a regular basis to get updates as to when a pupil is admitted or discharged so that the whereabouts of a pupil is always known and verified. Good communication and collaboration over provision will ensure this is as effective as possible. Schools must not lose sight of their pupils.
- Families, including siblings, can be under great stress when a child is unwell and in hospital. It can lead to many additional pressures, including the financial pressures of constantly travelling to hospital for visits and, potentially, pressure on parents' jobs or careers due to the need for more flexibility to support a sick child. Some parents have no choice but to give up work.
- From a safeguarding perspective the family or young person may need additional support at this time (Early Help). Even whilst a child is in hospital, the home-school may be in the best position to organise some early help or signpost the family to appropriate agencies for support.
- A copy of Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service's Child Protection Policy and Procedures and Offer of Early Help can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council Website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ghes.

3.6 Gloucestershire Key Contacts for Children with Medical Needs

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/your-pupils/pupils-with-health-needs>

4. Monitoring arrangements

- This policy will be reviewed by the Resources Committee every 2 years. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and should be read in conjunction with them:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions.
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Attendance Policy.

- Data Protection and GDPR Policy.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy.
- Equality and Diversity Policy.