

Great Bardfield Primary School



Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Approved by:	Elizabeth Crow Headteacher
Ratified by Governors:	November 2025
Next review due by:	November 2026

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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to their medical needs, the school will seek and follow advice from all relevant agencies, including health, EP service, Specialist Teachers, Essex County Council Attendance Team, Education Access and their SEND Quadrant team.

The SENCo will be consulted for their advice on how best to manage the pupil's needs. This will be evidenced, where appropriate, using the One Planning process. All mental health requests will have oversight from the school SENCo and Headteacher. The school will refer to the tool kit on the Essex Schools Infolink to assist with identifying how best to support pupils.

The school, in discussion with health care professionals, may prepare an individual health care plan to evidence how the pupil's health needs can be managed in school – this will be shared with parents and the pupil where appropriate. The school will make all reasonable adjustments and followed any advice recommended by the services supporting the pupil before a referral for support will be considered. Any advice or guidance issued to the school and the school's response will form part of the referral - this will be demonstrated using One Planning documentation.

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. Liz Crow (Headteacher) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. Such arrangements could include sending work home or liaising with hospital schools. Parents/Carers and where possible pupils will be consulted about these arrangements. Once a pupil is able to return to school the Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring a reintegration plan is in place for the pupil.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Essex County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

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.