



A C A D E M Y
L A N G L E Y

Children With Health Needs That Cannot Attend School Policy

Policy Owner:	Grace Cox
Ratified by:	Local Governing Body
Date:	December 2023
Next Review Date:	December 2024

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend the Academy due to health needs;
- Students, staff and parents understand what the Academy is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Q3 Langley aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend the Academy due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some students may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within the Academy and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into the Academy as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not in the Academy and will work with the L.A, healthcare partners, and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

If the Academy makes arrangements

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

The Head of School, Vice Principal (in charge of Safeguarding), Personalised Learning Director and SENCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. A meeting will be made with parents/carers to discuss arrangements. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child.

Arrangements could include sending work home, attending a hospital Academy or an additional adult may attend the home to deliver lessons, work will be prepared by subject Learning Consultants.

The student will be slowly integrated back into Academy with either alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times, or the student may come back into the Academy on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

If the Local Authority makes arrangements

If the Academy cannot make suitable arrangements, Sandwell Local Authority will be informed of the reasons surrounding this. The L.A duty is provide support to look at alternative arrangements to help support the student if they can't access the Academy provision.

In cases where the Local Authority/alternative provision make arrangements, the Academy will:

- Work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the students;
- Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required;
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the students is as effective as possible, and that the student can be reintegrated back into the Academy successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, work with the Local Authority/alternative provision to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the Academy, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in the Academy as far as possible;
- Enable the student to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from the Academy);

- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each student returning to the Academy;
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

The Governing Board, SLT and Head Learning Consultant are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend the Academy as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented;
- Ensuring the review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend the Academy due to their medical needs;
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all;
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities;
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained;
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, the L.A, the alternative provision, key workers and others involved in the student's care;
- Providing Learning Consultants who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student;
- Notifying the L.A when a student is likely to be away from the Academy for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The SENCo/Family Liaison Co-ordinator are responsible for:

- Dealing with students who are unable to attend the Academy because of medical needs;
- Actively monitoring student progress and reintegration into the Academy;
- Providing information via One Page Profiles with current medical information;
- Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes;
- Liaising with SLT, education providers and parents to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from Academy;
- The Family Liaison Co-coordinator will provide a link between students and their parents, and the L.A/Alternative Provision.

Learning Consultants and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully, and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason;
- Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training;
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student's health needs;
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the Academy.

Support for students

- Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the Academy will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with the L.A, alternative provision, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the student. The L.A expects the Academy to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the Academy to make reasonable adjustments to students' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments;
- The Academy will make reasonable adjustments under students' EHCPs;
- Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned;
- During a period of absence, the Academy will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes;
- Whilst a student is away from Academy, the Academy will work with the L.A to ensure the student can successfully remain in touch with their Academy using the following methods: Academy emails, invitations to Academy meetings, telephone calls and letters;
- Where appropriate, the Academy will provide the student's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

To help ensure a student with additional health needs is able to attend the Academy following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member;
- Access to additional support in the Academy;
- Online access to the curriculum from home (through our Remote Learning section on the website);
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms;
- Places to rest at the Academy;
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting students with additional health needs, and to parents and students themselves.

Definitions

Children who are unable to attend Academy as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues;
- Physical injuries;
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues;
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal;
- Progressive conditions;
- Terminal illnesses;

- Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital School: a special School within a hospital setting where education is provided. The Academy will work with the medical professionals to help the student access this provision;
- Home tuition: referrals can be made to other providers such as Albright to apply for tuition at home;
- Medical PRUs: these are L.A establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.