



# CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Approved by:	FGB	Date: 2nd December 2025
Last reviewed on:	23.11.25	
Next review due by:	December 2026	
Reviewed by:	Lisa Hillman (Headteacher)	

## **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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ghcjoxy/la-guidance-for-schools-supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs-amended-5917.pdf>

## **3. The responsibilities of the school**

Slimbridge School will provide work for pupils with long-term medical needs which require hospitalisation or the equivalent home care which prevents them from attending school. This will be provided using our remote learning platform (Tapestry). If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will effectively need to be signed off school by a medical professional. There are actually 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.

### **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.

- The Head teacher will be responsible for making arrangements and assigning a named adult within school to support remote learning and work sent home.
- Parents will be consulted and supported by the named adult and Family Support Worker if necessary.
- A gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable in consultation with the parents and any professional bodies involved.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can not make suitable arrangements, Gloucester Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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 Headteacher and or SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and Child policy
- SEND Policy
- Intimate care policy