



# Inspire Education Trust

Together we achieve, individually we grow

## Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

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**Policy Date:** September 2026

**Review Date:** September 2027

## Document History

| Version | Status |  | Date    | Author                     | Summary Changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|--------|--|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| V1      |        |  | Sep 20  | Rob Darling                | Initial Draft                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| V2      |        |  | Sep 21  | Amy Husband                | No Changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| V3      |        |  | Sep 22  | V Shelley                  | Incorporation of secondary school approach                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| V4      |        |  | Sept 23 | Rob Darling/V Shelley      | No Changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| V5      |        |  | Sept 24 | Rob Darling/ L Henden      | Page 5, Sect 4 delete Head of Education, Primary and Secondary and insert Deputy CEO and Headteacher of Blue Coat School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| V6      |        |  | July 25 | Rob Darling                | Page 4<br>*Added in information regarding absence for longer than 15 days.<br>*Parent involvement in decision making.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| V7      |        |  | July 26 | Kerry Routley              | Page 4<br>*Added in the Section 19 – 15-day absence notification to the Local Authority.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|         |        |  | July 26 | Kerry Routley/ Rob Darling | Page 4<br>*Added in the Section 19 – Extended School Non-Attendance Panel referral<br>*Wider commitment statement to supporting pupils with health needs<br>*More detailed links to legislation and guidance<br>Page 5<br>*More detail on integration planning<br>*More detail on medical evidence sources<br>*Detail on quality of education provided<br>*More detail on Safeguarding responsibility |

## Contents

|                                            |   |
|--------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Aims.....                               | 4 |
| 2. Legislation and guidance .....          | 4 |
| 3. The responsibilities of the school..... | 4 |
| 4. Monitoring arrangements.....            | 5 |
| 5. Links to other policies.....            | 5 |

## 1 Commitment & Aims

Inspire Education Trust is committed to ensuring that children with physical or mental health needs receive a suitable and effective education which enables them to continue learning, maintain a sense of belonging and successfully reintegrate into school when appropriate. No pupil will be disadvantaged because of a medical condition or health need.

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](#).

- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice (2015)
- DfE statutory guidance: *Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs* (updated guidance)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

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

## 3 The responsibilities of the school

### 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.

**Support in School:** Schools are encouraged to support children with health needs as much as possible. If a child is likely to be absent for 15 days or more, alternative provision must be arranged and a Section 19 – 15 day absence notification will be submitted to the Local Authority.

**Parental Involvement:** Parents and carers are expected to provide information about their child's health needs and be involved in decisions about their education provision.

Key information on delivering this is:

- The Inclusion Lead, in conjunction with the child's class teacher (primary) SENDCO (secondary), will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.
- This could be by sending work home or liaising with the hospital schools service.
- Parents/ carers and children will be fully consulted on these arrangements via an initial meeting and then subsequent follow up conversations either over the phone, via email or face-to-face.

- The school will plan reintegration from the earliest appropriate stage. Plans may include:
  - phased return arrangements
  - reasonable adjustments
  - pastoral support
  - curriculum adaptations
  - SEND reviews where appropriate

Pupils and parents will be fully involved in planning.

- The school will seek appropriate medical evidence where a pupil is unable to attend because of health needs. This may include evidence from:
  - GP
  - Consultant
  - Hospital service
  - CAMHS
  - Specialist practitioner

The school will work collaboratively with parents where medical evidence is not immediately available.

- The school will submit any medical evidence via a Section 19 Extended School Non-Attendance Panel referral, for their consideration.

### **3.2 Suitable education should be inclusive of the following:**

- Maintain academic progress wherever possible
  - Reflect the pupil's age, aptitude and ability
  - Promote engagement and wellbeing
  - Include access to curriculum learning appropriate to the pupil's needs
  - Be reviewed regularly

The school retains safeguarding responsibility for pupils on roll who are receiving education outside school due to health needs. Appropriate arrangements will be maintained for wellbeing checks, information sharing and multi-agency working.

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

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Coventry or Warwickshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- 3.3.1 In the event that in-school provision is deemed not suitable, the Headteacher/Inclusion Lead will initiate contact with the Local Authority should the need arise. This will be in collaboration with parents/carers. The first point of contact will be the school's designated EHC Plan Co-ordinator, within the Statutory Assessment and Review Services.

- 3.3.2 A representative from school will attend all meetings with the Local Authority in relation to the provision. This may be the Inclusion Lead, Class Teacher (primary) SENDCO/SEND representative (secondary) or Headteacher.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- 3.3.3 Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- 3.3.4 Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- 3.3.5 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
- 3.3.6 When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
- 3.3.6.1 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
  - 3.3.6.2 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)
  - 3.3.6.3 Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
  - 3.3.6.4 Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

#### **4 Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy CEO and the Headteacher of Blue Coat School. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Directors.

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

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- SEND Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy (if applicable)
- Accessibility Plan
- Equality Objectives / Equality Policy

#### **Responsibility**

The Inspire Education Trust Board of Directors have a responsibility for the oversight of this and all policies within the Trust's academies and may delegate the implementation and review of this policy in accordance with our Scheme of Delegation.

|              |                       |                |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Reviewed by: | Amy Husband           | September 2021 |
| Reviewed by: | R Darling & V Shelley | September 2022 |
| Reviewed by: | R Darling             | September 2023 |
| Reviewed by: | R Darling & L Henden  | September 2024 |
| Reviewed by: | R Darling & L Henden  | September 2025 |
| Reviewed by: | R Darling             | September 2026 |

Next Review Date: September 2027

Approved by Directors: 21.10.26

Signed:



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Lois Whitehouse  
CEO



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Jane Durkin  
Trust Board