

Saltaire Primary School



Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

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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: [Welcome to 0-25 Specialist Teaching and Support Services | Skills 4 Bradford](#)

3. The responsibilities of the school

The school will work in partnership with the local authority to ensure that suitable education is provided for children who are not able to attend school due to health needs. Bradford Council has a Medical Needs and Hospital Education Service which comprises of teachers and officers providing an education service for all children of compulsory school age

resident in the Bradford Local Authority area who cannot attend school because of illness and health problems. The service is based at Owlet Road, Shipley and in the school rooms at Bradford Royal Infirmary and Airedale General Infirmary. Further information can be found on the [Bradford Local Offer website](#) including a referral form to be used by school.

At Saltaire Primary School, we aim to promote positive mental health for every child. We pursue this aim using both universal, whole school approaches and specialised, targeted approaches aimed at vulnerable students. It is possible that children may be absent from school as a result of poor mental health and we will work with parents and carers to support children in these circumstances. This may include signposting to services, either informally or through the Early Help process. Kate Jacklin, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, will be the main point of contact for children who are absent due to mental health. Children who are unable to attend school due to mental health concerns may also face substantial difficulty in accessing home learning as a result of their condition. Therefore, an individual plan will be made between home and school to support the child. Where possible, we will seek to support a child attending school, including on a part-time basis, to ensure a smooth and well-supported transition to full time education as soon as possible. Amendments to the arrangements below may be required in these circumstances.

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.

If the school is informed that a child will not be able to attend school for more than a week due to health needs, the Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. They will instruct the child's class teacher to provide home learning tasks which may include:

- Sending written work home in the form of exercise books, work books and practical tasks
- Providing work via Google Drive/Google Classroom
- Providing a video teaching session to support learning and provide social and emotional support. This may include other children from school with the permission of parents.
- Liaising with the child's parents or carers to ensure they are able to access the work set
- Maintaining weekly contact by telephone with the parent to ensure a good level of support is provided to the child and their parents

The teacher will make an appropriate arrangement using some or all of the above according to the needs and wishes of the parents.

Parents will be informed about ways in which they can get in touch with school for help with learning and other support if required.

The Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion will maintain contact with parents on a regular basis to monitor the quality of learning provision and to make arrangements for the return to school after a period of absence. This may include putting in plans for a reduced timetable or phased return to school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bradford Council 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 Rob Whitehead, Headteacher. 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
- Remote Learning policy
- SEND policy
- Online safety policy