



# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

## Policy Document



The Cornerstones of our  
Learning Community

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Children with health needs who cannot attend school	
Date of review:	November 2024
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Policy based on:	Keeping Children Safe in Education Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school.
Date for next review:	September 2025
Links to other policies	Attendance Policy

### Introduction

This policy aims to ensure that:

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

### Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and the Equality Act 2010

It also based on statutory guidance provided by the DfE - Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (Jan 2013)

### The responsibilities of the school

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example, where the child can still attend school with some support; where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school. We would not expect the LA to become involved in such arrangements unless it had reason to think that the education being provided to the child was not suitable or, while otherwise suitable, was not full-time or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health. This might be the case where, for example, the child can attend school but only intermittently.

Children unable to attend school because of health needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.

The use of electronic media – such as 'virtual classrooms', learning platforms and so on – can provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child's health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).

In some cases, LAs should work with schools to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan for each child. This may have to include extra support to help fill any gaps arising from the child's absence. It may be appropriate to involve the school nurse at this stage as they may be able to offer valuable advice. The school nurse will also want to be aware that the child is returning to school, so that they can be prepared to offer any appropriate support. Under equalities legislation schools must consider whether they need to make any reasonable adjustments to provide suitable access for the child.

### **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. Such provision will be overseen by our inclusion centre and/or SEND department and this may include the following:

- Full time in school with targeted support
- Reduced time in school with bespoke support
- Blended learning package

All Arrangements will be agreed with parents. As a student's circumstances change the school would look to adapt alternative curriculum arrangements, building up to a possible return to the classroom and a full timetable over a period of time.

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

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 student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school 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 their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

For more information see [here](#)