



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Policy Owner:	Director of Inclusion
Approved by:	Executive Team
Last reviewed:	November 2025
Next review due by:	November 2026

Due to the evolving nature of The CAM Academy Trust, procedures behind this policy will be reviewed and amended accordingly to reflect changes.

At the heart of our work lie the six core principles of The CAM Academy Trust. These drive everything that we do.



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/carers 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.

It also based on guidance provided by the local authority - which can be found here [Medical Needs](#)

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on maintained schools and academies to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Local authorities also have key responsibilities in championing the needs of these children and young people, and in providing education to children and young people where they are unable to attend school due to ill health. The Department of Education issues statutory guidance for schools and local authorities to follow in relation to children and young people with medical conditions.

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

The responsibilities of the school

Our schools will ensure that:

- Children with medical conditions should be able to access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child
- Staff will undertake appropriate training to provide the support that pupils with medical conditions require
- Staff do not give prescription medicines or undertake healthcare procedures without appropriate training
- No child with a medical condition can be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, governing bodies do not have to accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others
- Where required, an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) will be developed for a child with a medical condition, as set out in this policy and in the supporting pupils with medical conditions policy. An IHP should be reviewed at least annually.
- There is a named person in every school, responsible for implementing this policy. This information can be obtained from the school office

School arrangements

If a child is too ill to attend school, our schools will work with parents/carers to identify possible ways of minimising disruption to learning. For a short-term absence, this might mean sending some work home or to a hospital school to complete. This will be as closely matched to the

work being completed by the child's class as possible. We may also look at setting work electronically, either via email or via the school's 'online portal' software. Consideration of using an external e-learning provider may also be appropriate in certain instances. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and actions will be taken only when to do so does not go against advice, guidance and/or other policies that trust schools operate under.

A nominated member of staff will coordinate any work set and will communicate clearly with parent/carers and the pupil concerned about these arrangements. The nominated member of staff will also plan appropriately for a successful return to school, liaising with parent/carers and the pupil throughout. Re-integration arrangements might include adapted timetables or specific support.

Local Authority arrangements

For longer term absences (ie 15 days or more) the schools and local authority will work together to arrange suitable education for these children in line with the Section 19 duties.

In cases where the above applies, the school and trust will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP)

An IHP is an agreement between parents/carers, the school and healthcare professionals about what care a child needs in respect of their medical condition and how this will be carried out. Not all pupils with a medical condition will require an IHP. It will be agreed with a healthcare professional and the parents/carers when an IHP would be inappropriate or disproportionate. This will be based on evidence. If there is not a consensus, the principal will make the final decision.

An IHP should be shared with relevant staff members and stored securely in an easily accessible location. Principals, LAB's and responsible bodies should make sure that individual IHPs are followed.

Further details about IHPs are contained in the policy supporting pupils with medical conditions.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Director of Inclusion.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions