

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

## BCHS is a school where:

- Where aspiration, knowledge and kindness are at the heart of all that we do.
- Where every child is respected, valued and supported to achieve their very best.
- Where high expectations, engaging learning and a culture of respect enable every child to succeed.
- Where children feel safe, happy and encouraged to grow into independent and responsible young people.
- Where achievement, character, leadership and personal development are recognised and celebrated.
- Where strong partnerships between staff, students, parents and governors support a thriving school community.

Policy owner (Name):	Jennifer Richards/ Matthew Taylor
Policy owner (Job Title):	Designated Safeguarding Leads
Oversight:	Full Governing Body
Date of review:	August 2025
Date of next review:	August 2025

This policy is for the whole school and The Credo School, our designated provision at Birchwood Community High School.

**Contents**

1. Aims ..... 3

2. Legislation and guidance ..... 3

3. Responsibilities of the school ..... 3

4. Monitoring arrangements ..... 5

5. Links to other policies ..... 5

## 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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/children-unable-attend-school-medical-reasons-medical-tuition>

## 3. Responsibilities of the school

### 3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The Head Teacher, Pastoral Manager and SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.
- A meeting will be arranged with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include sending work home, accessing work through Microsoft Teams, attending a hospital school or a Teaching Assistant may attend the home to deliver lessons, work will be prepared by class teachers.
- The child will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the child may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

### 3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Warrington Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The school will make a referral to the Local Authority's Pupil Support Co-Ordinator. . This service should accept and act on their following criteria:

- Medical needs are such that the child has been away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- The child's health has significantly reduced their ability to access their home school full time and this is reflected in their attendance record.
- A senior medical professional (such as a consultant, mental health practitioner etc) is providing support, diagnosis and/or advice. Please Note: GP referral is not sufficient.
- A change in medical advice or medication has meant that a young person requires increased medical review, intervention, support or flexibility to allow them to attend education full time.
- Health need can mean either physical health need, or mental health condition meaning it is disrupting the young person's ability to attend school full time
- A young person has been discharged from tier 4 Mental Health Service services and requires on-going support before full time reintegration to school.

In cases where Warrington Local Authority makes the arrangements, Birchwood Community High 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.
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the student and is providing suitable education.
- Where possible, allow the student to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this.
- Liaise with the alternative provider over planning examinations and examination course requirements where appropriate. (Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as soon as possible.
- 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources

- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

## 4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. 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