

Presdales School



'Achievement for All'

Title	Children with health needs who cannot attend school
Version	March 2026
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Committee Responsible	FTB
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Enquiries & comments

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Aims

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.

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](#)

[Hertfordshire local offer](#)

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

The responsibilities of the school

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, including the following:

- Students will be able to access Google Classroom (GC) to collect work that other students can access on GC
- All schemes of work are available in the relevant area of the school website.
- Students can access online learning platforms, such as Seneca, Sparx or lessons from the Oak Academy.as directed by the subject teacher.
- The Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher (KS3 /4) will ensure that students are referred for [ESMA](#) when in receipt of written consultant advice that this level of extra support is required
- The Assistant Headteacher will liaise with parents and children about these arrangements
- On reintroduction to Presdales, the Pastoral team will work with ESMA to produce an individualised plan for reintegration based on the specific needs of each individual student.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Local authorities must:

Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education. Local authorities should:

Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child. When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

HCC delivers this education through the ESMA Teaching Service. Key features include:

- Curriculum: Focus is on core subjects—English, Maths, and Science. The home school remains responsible for providing materials for the rest of the curriculum.
- Methods of Delivery:
 - Live Online Teaching: Often via platforms like Acorn Digital Learning.
 - Face-to-Face: Small group teaching at designated teaching bases.
 - Telepresence Robots: In some cases, a "robot" can sit in the classroom, allowing the student to see and hear lessons from home.
- Suitability: The education must be "suitable" to the child's age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs (SEND).

Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- 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 child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral. At every review, it will be approved by the full Trust Board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- Attendance policy