

BEREWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Spring 2026

Revised by School	Spring 2026
Responsible Person	Headteacher
Responsible Committee	Full governing body
Ratified by GB	February 2026
Next Review	Spring 2027



BEREWOOD PRIMARY 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/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

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. [Hampshire County Council Behaviour and Attendance Guidelines](#)

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

3. Responsibilities

Where possible, the child's health needs should be managed by the home school so that they can continue to be educated there with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority.

Education for pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs can be provided for in the following ways:

- Children who are in-patients of most hospitals will be taught through the in-hospital teaching service
- Children who are not in-patients, may receive home tutoring organised via the Education Inclusion Support Service and a local education centre.

Children who are admitted to NHS hospitals (including psychiatric units) in other areas will receive education through the local hospitals, schools or an education centre.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

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

Contact with classroom staff and SENCo can be made through the school office. When deemed appropriate, arrangements for work to be sent home can be made and contact arranged with hospital schools to best support academic progress, monitor arrangements and help support a smooth transition to reintegrate the pupil back to school.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school can't make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Hampshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When a 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.

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

- Provide the local authority, at agreed intervals, with 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), 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 Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full board of Governors.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

SEND Policy

Remote Learning Policy