



**Grange  
Academy**  
Belong • Believe • Achieve

**Article 24:** You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

# Guidance regarding children who are unable to attend school because of health needs

**Policy Status:** Other

**Review Cycle:** Annually

**Owner:** Headteacher – Rachel Timms

**Date:** June 2026

**Approved by:** SLT

**Date:** June 2026

**Review Date:** June 2027

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 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
- DfE Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2015 It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

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

The statutory guidance contains detailed information about what a school policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions should contain, and the roles and responsibilities of governors, staff, health professionals and parents. It is important to refer to this guidance in full when dealing with issues in this area.

## **The Responsibilities of the School**

The following outlines the responsibilities of Grange Academy for pupils who cannot attend due to health needs.

### **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. This will be bespoke to the child and agreed with family. The SEND officer (Bedford Borough) will be included.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring SLT are aware that a pupil cannot attend school due to health reasons.

Grange Academy has remote learning guidance document that explains the expectations for education provided whilst a pupil is not attending school.

The remote learning guidance explains how work is sent home or communicated to families. Deputy Heads are responsible for monitoring the educational input for these pupils.

Parents/carers will be contacted weekly by teachers and once every 2 weeks by SLT , to ensure the arrangements are up to date and adjust the plans if needed.

Pupils will be reintegrated into the school on an individual basis. These arrangements will be made in collaboration with parents/carers and health professionals. Pupils may be offered a phased return to school with a clear plan for how this will increase to full time over a set timescale. This plan can be amended should their health begin to be negatively affected by their return to school.

We acknowledge that pupils may experience 'Emotionally Based School Avoidance' (EBSA) also known as EBSNA (Emotionally based school non-attendance). Please see the Attendance Policy for further details. School will work closely with the family and Borough Lead to plan support.

### **If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bedford Borough Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. It is the school's responsibility to contact Bedford Borough.

Bedford Borough is aware of its responsibilities regarding children and young people who have health needs and has ensured that arrangements are in place to minimise, as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling by continuing education as normally as the incapacity allows. The Borough provides support and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with health needs through the Medical Needs Team (MN), part of Greys Education Centre (Alternative Provision Academy), as well as providing education at Bedford Hospital. The MN team has a vital role in delivering and monitoring the specialist provision required for pupils during their illness.

The Borough considers a child or young person to be receiving fulltime education if they receive 10 sessions per week, 2 per day, split by a break, with up to 1½ hrs of 1:1 teaching in a session, delivered face to face by a fully qualified teacher. Teaching will be offered during the term dates set by Bedford Borough Council. This may be structured differently according to a pupils' needs.

Local Authorities are 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.

Schools should follow the procedures set out below and if appropriate, send referrals for children and young people with health needs to the Head of Medical Needs at Greys Education Centre. The referral forms are available on the Greys Education Centre website: [www.greys.beds.sch.uk](http://www.greys.beds.sch.uk)

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 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 as set out in the remote learning guidance.
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

## **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SLT. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## **Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Remote learning guidance document