



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Swanlea School



SWANLEA SCHOOL

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Reviewed by: Kabir Miah **Date:** November 2025

Approved by: Community Sub-Committee TBA

Next review due by: November 2026



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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority entitled 'The Tower Hamlets Policy for Ensuring a Good Education for Children who Cannot Attend School because of Health Needs (2015).

Swanlea School understands that the following practices are unacceptable;

Assuming that pupils with the same condition require the same treatment.

Ignoring the views of the pupil and/or their parents.

Ignoring medical evidence or opinion.

Sending pupils home frequently or preventing them from taking part in activities at school.

Penalising pupils with medical conditions for their attendance record where the absences relate to their condition.

Making parents feel obliged or forcing parents to attend school to administer medication or provide medical support, including toilet issues.

Creating barriers to children participating in school life, including educational visits.

Refusing to allow pupils to eat, drink or use the toilet when they need to manage their condition. Not providing lunch for children with allergies, although parents may be encouraged to provide a packed lunch in certain circumstances when the allergy is unstable, frequently changes and may be life- threatening.



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3.1 School arrangements

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

- › The relevant LCO & Key Stage SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- › Arrangements could include sending work home for pupils, uploading work on to Google Classroom and other online platforms, liaising with hospital schools, home one to one tuition and staff undertaking home visits where possible
- › We will always seek to consult parents and pupils about these arrangements in planning meetings held either face to face, over the telephone or via online meetings
- › We will also seek to work with families and external professionals to reintegrate pupils back into school by considering phased returns, part-time timetables, mentoring support and any other appropriate supportive measure. This would be explicitly outlined in risk assessments for pupils with complex medical needs.

3.2 Local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, London Borough of Tower Hamlets will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. Such decisions would be made in partnership with the family, the School and LBTH.

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 (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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher with oversight of Inclusion. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board or relevant sub-committee.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- › Accessibility plan
- › Supporting pupils with medical conditions



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