

**Children with Health Needs
who cannot Attend School Policy**

The Bishop of Winchester Academy



Sapere Aude

Policy Control Table	
Policy Title	Children with Health Needs who cannot Attend School Policy
Author/s: Name, Code, Role	Rebekah Storr, RST, Assistant Headteacher
Link Trustee, if any	
Version (V) N°	2
Statutory	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Policy
Required on Website	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approval/Ratification Route	<input type="checkbox"/> Author – Vice principals <input type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Trust Board <input type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Resources Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Author - ALT - Student Experience Committee
Review Frequency and Authority	Vice principals (VPs) annual <input type="checkbox"/> biennial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> triennial <input type="checkbox"/> Trust committee annual <input type="checkbox"/> biennial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> triennial <input type="checkbox"/> Trust board annual <input type="checkbox"/> biennial <input type="checkbox"/> triennial <input type="checkbox"/> Other (state) updated if/when guidance changes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linked Policies, if any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Policy (includes accessibility plan) • Supporting Students with Medical Conditions • Child Protection and Safeguarding
Review by Author/VPs Due	October 2025
Pending Approval by Committee on	
Pending Approval by Board on	
Previous Ratification Date	L1 2023 (annual)
Ratification Date and Authority	Student Experience Committee 06.11.25

A review or ratification/approval date is not a sunset clause.

The policy remains in place until such time as it has been reviewed, re-ratified/approved or superseded by updated relevant statutory guidance.

Policy History			
V	Date	Author	Revision Summary
1	July 2023	?	First edition.
2	Oct 2025	RST	Fully review and updated. Addition of the control table. Change from annual to biennial review.

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Sponsors Statement

All The Bishop of Winchester Academy (TBOWA) policies exist to support the Sponsors' vision, Christian ethos and values that are embedded in the day-to-day and long-term running of the academy. Each policy evidences the commitment of the Sponsors to the principles and values of honesty, respect, hospitality, compassion, love, forgiveness, self-discipline, creativity and hope. This policy contributes to the development of young people and the community through all Academy activities.

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- a. Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- b. Students, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is provided by the local authority.

2. Legislation and guidance

2.1 This policy is based on the following national or local legislation and guidance:

[The Education Act 1996](#)

[The Education \(Student Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

[Alternative provision](#)

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

[Supporting students at school with medical conditions](#)

BCP's [Education-for-Medical-Needs-Policy](#)

3. Responsibilities of the Academy

- 3.1 School is the best environment in which to educate a child. Students medically unfit to attend school still need and deserve a high-quality education, which meets each student's individual needs. There are a very limited number of reasons why a school might consider alternative provision pathways and or the use of a modified timetable. Where this is related to health issues, it is supported by medical evidence. The student will: a) Have medical needs other than mental health needs or b) Have mental health needs and access CAMHS either as an in-patient or through services provided in the community.
- 3.2 Initially, TBOWA will plan (depending on the longevity of the health condition) to deliver the same high standard of education for students with health needs who cannot attend school. Our Head of Years (HoY's), Educational Social Worker (ESW) or SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements alongside the professionals, parents, and carers.

4. Responsibilities of BCP

- 4.1 The BCP (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Council) School Inclusion services are responsible for arranging alternative provisions for students who are unable to attend school because of health needs. If parents or careers provide the Academy with evidence from a medical consultant evidencing that a student is unable to attend school, our ESW and the student's HoY, will contact schoolinclusion@bcpcouncil.gov.uk for further discussion on how education can best be provided while the student is unable to attend.

- 4.2 If the student has an EHCP, the SENCO will work with the designated BCP case worker and parents or carers to ensure that the package of education is appropriate to meet the needs of the student.

5. Process if BCP makes the arrangements

- 5.1 If TBOWA can't make suitable arrangements, or if the student is away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, BCP will become responsible for arranging suitable education for the student.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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 an appropriate package of education on whatever basis it considers to be in the student's best interests.
- 5.4 In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our academy will:
- a. Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child.
 - b. Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
- 5.4.1 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.
- 5.4.2 Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- 5.4.3 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).
- 5.4.4 Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this.
- 5.4.5 Help make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.
- 5.4.6 When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
- a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.
 - d. Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.