

Supporting Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Freemantle C.E. Community Academy Trust



Reviewed by:	Laura Allen	Date: September 2026
Approved by:	Directors	
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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend the academy due to health needs
- Pupils, staff, parents and carers understand what the academy 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](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. [SCC Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs](#)

3. The responsibilities of the academy

The academy has a duty to make reasonable and, where necessary, significant adjustments to enable pupils to access education in school. Where a pupil is able to attend with appropriate support and adjustments, education will be provided on site. Home tuition or home-based support will only be arranged where a pupil's medical condition prevents attendance and access to education within the school environment, despite appropriate adjustments being in place.

3.1 If the academy makes arrangements

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to medical needs, the academy will seek to provide suitable education. Such arrangements will be overseen and regularly monitored by the Senior Accountability Team and academy Directors.

Education may be delivered to children through:

- Sending work home
- Online Learning
- Liaison with the Hospital School
- A planned reduced timetable

The academy will consult with parents/carers and the appropriate professionals about these arrangements; a range of staff may be involved in this process and an IHP may need to be completed. We will work closely with parents/carers and professionals to ensure that the reintegration back into the academy is appropriate for the pupil.

If a child or young person **cannot** attend the academy (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will effectively need to be signed off school by a medical professional. There are actually no official 'sick notes' or 'fit notes' for children from medical professionals; however, a referral accepted by Southampton City Council Inclusion Service, where a medical professional has confirmed a child or young person is **medically unable** to attend school even with adjustments, is effectively this.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the academy cannot make suitable arrangements, Southampton City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

A referral to Southampton Medical Outreach Service is made when a pupil is medically unable to attend school and this is likely to be for at least 15 days or more (e.g. surgical recovery). The referrer is asked to provide detailed information about the pupil, including:

- Confirmation that the pupil is medically unable to attend school – this will be through a diagnosis, evidenced by a current letter from a Consultant Medical Professional.
- The reason for the absence (medical condition) – Confirmation and description of the specific medical diagnosis.
- Likely duration of absence from school. While this is an estimate, clinicians may be aware of suggested rehabilitation times based on previous admissions to hospital.
- Amount of education (in hours) that is suitable for the young person, taking into account their medical condition and the intensity of one-to-one tuition

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the academy 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
- 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)
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into the academy successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the academy, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in the academy as far as possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with academy 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 the academy
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Academy's Senior Accountability Team. At every review, it will be approved by the Directors.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions