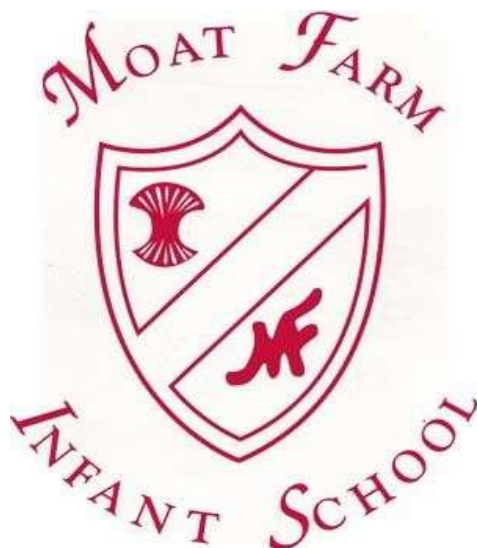




**STOUR VALE
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Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Chairs Signature	Sian Stevens

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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 our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

Moat Farm Infant School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not in school and we will work with Sandwell Local Authority, healthcare partners and the parents to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

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.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

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

- The class teacher of the pupil will be responsible for preparing work and sharing this with parents/carers. The SENCO will be responsible for monitoring these arrangements and supporting the class teacher if required. The school will provide the pupil with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

- A meeting will be made with parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents /carers.
- Children whose health needs require hospitalisation will be referred to the Home and Hospital Tuition team where appropriate.
- The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include sending work, weblinks, activities home, providing small amounts of remote education via TEAMS or attending a hospital school.
- During the period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes. The lead contact will be decided by the Headteacher.
- Whilst a child is away from school, the school will work with the parents/ carers to ensure the child can successfully remain in touch with the school using the following methods:
 - o Newsletters
 - o Emails
 - o Invitations to school events
 - o Cards or letters home from peers and staff including the class teacher.
- To maintain contact with school, the school will complete home visits with a known member of staff and team video calls will be arranged with school and parents to the class teacher and class children.
- The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible, such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a part time timetable until their health needs have been met. If a part time timetable is agreed between school and parents, the relevant paperwork will be completed and submitted to the Attendance Team at Sandwell Council.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil. The following adjustments will be considered:
 - o A personalised or part time-timetable
 - o Access to additional support in school
 - o Movement of lessons to accessible rooms
 - o Places to rest at school
 - o Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.
- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the child's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- The school is aware that some children will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the parents, the child and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.
- The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage children and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot 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, Sandwell will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the 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 to the local authority, at agreed intervals, 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 or internet links to lessons from their school), 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 Natalie Anslow, SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- › Accessibility plan
- › Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- › Whole school SEND policy
- › Attendance policy
- › Safeguarding policy