



Alfred Lord Tennyson School	Page 1 of 4
Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy	Issued: February 24
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APPROVAL BY	FULL GOVERNING BODY

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

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1. Introduction

Alfred Lord Tennyson School (ALTS) works in partnership with pupils, parents, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. The school is proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

For the purposes of this policy, reference to 'parents' includes all adults who have a caring responsibility for a child or children in the school. This may include parents, step-parents, grandparents and other relatives, foster carers and adoptive parents as well as other adults who have a legal responsibility for a child.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' [1]. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- The school recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996 [2]
- Equality Act 2010 [3]
- Data Protection Act 2018 [4]
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' [5]
- DfE (2017) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions' [6]

3. The Responsibility of the school

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, ALTS will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, home tuition will be offered to the child. This may be provided through the school's own resources or via the Hospital and Outreach Education Service (NHOE) commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council [7]. There is no charge for this service, but should home tuition exceed 6 months then a charge may be made to the home school. Referral to the NHOE for home tuition can be made by telephone or electronically (see Supporting children with Medical Conditions [8]). Medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage. Where a child is admitted to hospital, ALTS will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, the school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, ALTS will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility. Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the ALTS will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to

take into hospital with them. ALTS will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff at the school and the staff providing the education otherwise.

4. Reintegration into the School

ALTS will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists and other relevant professionals, the pupil and their parents to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school. ALTS will ensure that the pupils and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school. ALTS will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days. ALTS will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEN devolved budget or via review and referral to the SEN panel.

Throughout the absence, ALTS will maintain contact with both parents and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both ALTS and the education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents, as appropriate, during the absence. ALTS will expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school. The Headteacher will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Headteacher will report to Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.

5. Monitoring

The SENDCO will provide staff and Governors with regular summaries of the impact of this policy on the practice of the school. The SENDCO is involved in supporting teachers who draw up intervention plans for children.

6. Links to Other Policies

Accessibility plan [9]

Supporting pupils with medical conditions [8]

7. References

- [1] gov.uk, "Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school," 14 December 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/>

education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school.
[Accessed 12 February 2024].

- [2] legislation.gov.uk, "Education Act 1996," [Online]. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/579>. [Accessed 12 February 2024].
- [3] legislation.gov, "Equality Act 2010," [Online]. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>. [Accessed 12 February 2024].
- [4] gov.uk, "Data Protection Act 2018," 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>. [Accessed 12 February 2024].
- [5] gov.uk, "Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs," December 2023. [Online]. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf. [Accessed 12 February 2024].
- [6] gov.uk, "Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school," 16 August 2017. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>. [Accessed 12 February 2024].
- [7] Hospital and Outreach Education, "Hospital and Outreach Education," [Online]. Available: <https://nhoe.org.uk/>. [Accessed 12 February 2024].
- [8] Alfred Lord Tennyson School, "Supporting children with Medical Conditions".
- [9] Alfred Lord Tennyson School, "Accessibility Policy".
- [10] Alfred Lord Tennyson School, "Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy".
- [11] Alfred Lord Tennyson School, "Online Safety Policy".
- [12] Alfred Lord Tennyson School, "ICT Acceptable Use Policy".

8. Safeguarding

Safeguarding our children is our priority – see Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy [10].

Online safety lessons are conducted regularly within the school to help to ensure that children stay safe online – see Online Safety Policy [11] and ICT Acceptable Use Policy [12]

All concerns must be reported to our Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs K O'Connor, Mrs S Smith, Mrs J Appleby and Mrs L Bunker.