



# ASPIRATIONS

## CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

### OCEAN ACADEMY

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## Contents

<b>1. Aims</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Legislation and guidance</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. The responsibilities of the school</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. Monitoring arrangements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Links to other policies</b>	<b>3</b>

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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. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. The responsibilities of the school

Where illness is impacting upon a pupil's education, staff at Ocean Academy (Senior leaders and the SENCO) will develop a written Individual Healthcare Plan (appendix A) in collaboration with other agencies that may be in contact with the pupil, such as children's social care, CAMHS, school nursing service or the GP.

The plan will identify the child or young person's specific needs and what adjustments will be implemented to meet those needs. Any adjustments or additional support needed can be sensitively arranged between the school, the parents or carers, health care providers and the pupil themselves.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments to meet educational needs if a pupil can attend school with adjustments. Schools can decide how they meet educational needs but are expected to demonstrate flexibility and creativity in doing so. This includes meeting the needs of pupils who can attend school part-time and intermittently, particularly when there are known medical needs, and these can be planned for. Schools

must inform the Local Authority whenever a pupil is placed on a part-time timetable. BCP School Inclusion Service can advise the development of individual healthcare plans and signpost to services that might be able to provide additional support for pupils whose ill health is impacting their education.

### **3.1 If the school makes arrangements**

Initially, staff at Ocean Academy will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Members of the senior leadership team (and where appropriate, including the SENCO) will meet with parents to discuss the individual needs of the pupil and following professional guidance from other parties involved, draw up a plan to meet individual educational needs for the pupil. This plan will be regularly reviewed. This may include: A package of work following the curriculum areas covered in their usual year group, either in paper form or on Google Classroom and the class teacher will feedback. Opportunities to visit school or attend on a part-time timetable according to need can be discussed. Staff will communicate with families weekly to 'check in' and safeguarding purposes.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If ill health will result in a pupil being unable to attend school for 15 consecutive or non-consecutive school days the school should make a referral to the Local Authority for advice, guidance, and educational provision. This should be verified in writing, using a medical referral form (appendix B), by a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from Child and Mental Health Adolescent Services (CAMHS); where this is not possible alternative enquiries should be made to GP. Completed medical referral forms should be emailed to [schoolinclusion@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:schoolinclusion@bcpcouncil.gov.uk) Before considering a referral to the Local Authority for advice and guidance a school must satisfy itself that a pupil's absence is due to ill-health and that there are no other factors influencing non-attendance. 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

## **4. Monitoring arrangements**

### **Referrals**

All referrals will be reviewed by BCP School Inclusion Service. After consulting with the school, pupil, their family, healthcare providers and other agencies involved, advice, guidance and where appropriate, educational provision will be offered to the referrer. Alternative educational provision, will only be provided if there is sufficient evidence that

the pupil's poor health is impacting the education of the pupil and every reasonable adjustment has been made by the school to meet educational needs and enable attendance.

### **Reviewing arrangements**

The school is expected to review arrangements and update the Individual Healthcare Plan Regularly. Reviews should involve, wherever possible, the school, Local Authority, health providers, the pupil and their parents or carers and any other relevant services. Reviews should focus on returning the pupil to school-based full- time learning as soon as is possible.

### **Governor Input**

This policy will be reviewed annually by a member of SLT. 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
- Attendance Policy
- SEND and Inclusion Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Blended Learning Policy