



The Chalfonts Community College

Success is an Attitude!

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

2026 - 2027

Last Reviewed on:	June 2026
New Review due:	June 2027

Contents

1. Aims.....	2
2. Legislation and Guidance.....	2
3. When does this policy apply?.....	3
4. Roles and Responsibilities.....	3
5. The use of Alternative Provision (AP).....	4
6. Reintegration following a period of absence from school due to illness.....	5

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that suitable education is arranged for students at The Chalfonts Community College who cannot attend school due to their health needs.

We are committed to meeting our statutory obligation to ensure that children who cannot attend school for health reasons are supported to continue their education. We also acknowledge that it can be an incredibly difficult time for a child and their family when a child is seriously ill, and we are committed to following the advice of professionals, and of working closely and collaboratively with families, to reduce the burden and stress on everyone during such a difficult time.

Some students with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case we will comply with our duties under that Act. Some students may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy has been written with consideration for the following:

- Section 100 of The Education Act 1996
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: statutory guidance for maintained schools and academies 2015
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (statutory guidance for Local Authorities) 2013
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (DfE, updated December 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>
- Buckinghamshire Guidance on education support for children who cannot attend school due to medical needs
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-attendance-and-supporting-children-in-education/education-support-for-children-with-medical-needs/#:~:text=children%20in%20education,Education%20support%20for%20children%20who%20cannot%20attend%20school%20due%20to,properly%20supported%20with%20their%20education.>
- The Equalities Act 2010
- The SEN Code of Practice

- Children and Families Act 2014

The school also recognises the local authority's duties under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to arrange suitable education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.

3. When does this policy apply?

This policy only applies where students have been or are likely to be away from school for 15 days or more due to health needs, whether consecutive or cumulative. Health needs may include physical health conditions, mental health difficulties, emotional wellbeing needs and recovery from illness or injury.

This policy applies to any students who have health needs which prevent them from attending school.

In all cases, students will only be eligible for the support laid out in this policy where there is clear evidence from a qualified medical professional to certify that the child is unable to attend school due to health reasons.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Parents/carers and families are responsible for:

- Communicating regularly with the school about their child's illness or injury, and passing on information from qualified medical professionals where appropriate.

Students will:

- Be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs
- Contribute to the development of any plans, e.g. individual health care plan, plan for education while unwell, reintegration back to mainstream plan

All staff will:

- Be aware of the medical needs of students that they teach or interact with, and follow the agreed strategies on any individual support plans

Attendance staff will:

- During periods of absence, maintain regular contact with the student and family and take reasonable steps to support the student's continued inclusion in school life.
- Alert the appropriate staff if a child is off school due to health needs (this could be medical staff, the Year Leader, the SENDCo or the Vice Principal for Pastoral/SEND depending on the level of need).

Medical Staff will:

- Meet with parents/carers, and either:

- if possible, agree an individual healthcare plan that enables the student to remain in school if possible (working with the SENDCo if required)
- refer the student to the Year Leader and Vice Principal for Pastoral/SEND if remaining in **school is not possible**

Year Leaders will:

- Be ultimately responsible for ensuring that students with health needs who cannot access school are supported by the appropriate in school professionals (medical, pastoral, SENDCo etc)
- Work with parents/carers to ensure that a suitable education is provided, using alternative provision if appropriate
- During periods of absence, maintain regular contact with the student and family and take reasonable steps to support the student's continued inclusion in school life.
- After the illness, work with the student and their family to agree a reintegration plan so that the student can successfully return to mainstream education in school

The Vice Principal for Pastoral/SEND will:

- Manage the Year Leaders and medical staff in their coordination of appropriate support
- Decide whether Alternative Provision should be used to support a student
- Oversee relationships with Alternative Provision providers and monitor the quality of provision on offer

The Principal will:

- Be responsible for the implementation of this policy

5. The use of Alternative Provision (AP)

The type of education provided to a student who cannot attend school because of health needs will vary depending on the type and length of their health needs, and the advice of the medical professionals working with the child and their family.

Ultimately, it will be the decision of the Vice Principal for Pastoral/SEND as to whether Alternative Provision (AP) should be used to support a student. This decision will be taken based on the recommendation from medical professionals as to what sort of education a student can and should access, as well as feedback from families about what they think would be helpful for their child.

AP could include any of the following:

- fully online (e.g. Academy 21 or Kings Interhigh)
- tutors visiting the home (e.g. Buckinghamshire LA Medical Provision, or other tutoring companies)
- hospital school lessons

If AP is used, the following will be done:

- The student may be dual registered at Chalfonts and at the AP, or we may use a B code, depending on the type of setting
- A personalised provision plan will be set up for the student, laying out the provision and key expectations
- A termly quality assurance visit will be conducted of the AP
- The AP will report the student's attendance to our attendance team at the start of each session
- Year Leaders will do a half termly review with the AP in order to monitor progress, attainment, engagement etc, and to facilitate a supportive reintegration plan back to Chalfonts when appropriate.

6. Reintegration following a period of absence from school due to illness

We understand that it can be very difficult for students to reintegrate back into a mainstream school after a period of absence. In order to support this, the following will be used or considered if appropriate:

- Year Leaders will meet with the student and family to discuss what support would help their reintegration back to school. Year Leaders will invite relevant staff (e.g. medical, pastoral, SENDCo) to this meeting.
- The use of a reduced timetable for a period of time may be considered appropriate, depending on the type and length of education that has been in place, and the student's overall wellness and readiness to return. Any reduced timetable will be temporary, reviewed regularly, agreed with parents/carers and accompanied by a plan to return the student to full-time education as soon as appropriate.
- It may be helpful to adapt the timetable in some way, for example replacing Physical Education with another activity if medical professionals suggest caution in physical activity.
- The student may benefit from a regular timetabled check in with a trusted adult, or another form of intervention

Date	Issue	Status	Comments
September 2023	1	New	

September 2024	2	Added	Termly quality visit is conducted
June 2026	3	Added	In Section 2 (legislation): • Added 2023 guidance to 2013 legislation section • Added that the s19 duty is on the LA Section 3 • Added that health needs include mental health, as per DfE guidance Section 4 • Added duty to stay in touch to YLs and Attendance team Section 6 • Clarified that RTT will be time limited etc

