CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Review Due:	July 2026
Last Review	9 July 2025
Applicable to:	The Mendip School
Reviewed By:	Emma Cooper
Approved By:	LGB

Safeguarding Statement

At The Mendip School we respect and value all children and young people and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our students so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every student should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at The Mendip School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our learners by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Equality Statement

We will make every effort in creating equality of opportunity in order to ensure they are accessible and fair to everyone. Every person has the right to be treated fairly, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, culture, religion, nationality or caring responsibilities. Where necessary we will implement reasonable adjustments or additional support, to ensure equality of access to an education and suitable learning and working environments. Our staff, Trustees and governors who plan, agree and deliver our education provision will recognise diversity and demonstrate a proactive approach in their day-to-day work. They will ensure that everyone is treated fairly, recognising special education or physical needs and understanding differences. Behaviour will reach our high standards of conduct (staff and pupils) and the learning environment we provide will be safe and accessible for those studying and working.

1. Policy Statement

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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority. **'Somerset Local Authority policy for the education of children and young people unable to attend school because of health needs'**

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

3. The responsibilities of the school and Local authority

All children and young people should have access to education when they are ill or unable to attend school for health and medical reasons, temporary or long term. The nature and amount of educational activity they do must always be dictated their health/medical condition, balance with the need to help keep up with their studies and maintain the momentum of their education.

The Local authority has a responsibility to oversee the arrangements made by the school for suitable full time (or as much education as the young person's health dictates.) Initially the school would be responsible for providing remote learning to the pupil on their roll, and should do so in discussion with Somerset Local authority. The school will ensure that reasonable resources to facilitate this learning are in place – the nature of these resources will be dependent on the needs of the pupil.

Where a child or young person is considered unfit to attend school this must be confirmed with a written medical diagnosis or advice from a medical professional (e. CAMHS, GP, Paediatric Services, medical consultant). The school is required to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their continued access to education.

Under no circumstances should considerations of cost be a barrier to education.

The Mendip School are commissioned to provide the Hospital, Education, Reintegration Service (HERS) for Bath and North East Somerset. All pupils have been signed off as medically unfit for school by a medical professional and the level of support provided is guided by medical advice.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- In the short term, the school will liaise with the family to discuss what level of provision is appropriate
- Short term arrangements include; remote activities, paper-based activities, access to activities based on the pupils EHCP targets
- The school will liaise with the family and relevant professionals to create a medical/part time timetable agreement (Appendix 1)
- The school will agree the amount of work to be set and work together to create a plan for return to school

For pupils with long term sickness

School will liaise with parents/careers and medical professionals to devise a medical/ part time agreement plan/ alternative arrangement plan for education. This may include:

- Remote activities, paper-based activities, access to activities based on the pupils EHCP targets
- Virtual contact with the class to maintain relationships
- Details of medical conditions and possible impact on school
- Reintegration plans/transition plans
- Consideration as to whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made
- Agreed amount of time in school and plan for reintegration when possible
- Liaison with Somerset Local Authority

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school are not able to make suitable arrangements, Somerset Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

For pupils admitted to hospital:

Somerset Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that pupils with health needs are not at home or in hospital for more than 15 working days without access to education: this may be consecutive or cumulative with the same medical condition. Effective liaison with medical professionals will ensure that there is a minimum of delay in starting appropriate support.

In the case of a child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan the school should contact their area Special Educational Needs Casework Officer to request the case be considered by the Special Educational Needs Statutory Panel in the first instance. Panel approval must be gained and the Statement or EHC Plan revised if a part time timetable is required for medical reasons. Evidence will be required to support the proposal. This must include relevant medical advice. A plan should also be provided outlining how, when and if a return to full time education is anticipated.

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
- 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school 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 school

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. 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
- Children with medical needs
- The Partnership Trust Equalities Policy
- Alternative Provision Policy

Appendix 1 - **Part Time Timetable Consent Form**

Child's Name:

UPN: Ethnicity:

Date of Birth: Gender: Year Group:

School:

Is the child looked after by Somerset County Council or any other local authority?

If Yes, which local authority?

Is the child subject to a Child Protection Plan?

Has the pupil had a part-time timetable before?

If Yes, when?

Name of parents/carers:

Name of lead person in school:

Name of social worker (if applicable):

Name of SEN caseworker (if applicable):

Name of Virtual School rep (if applicable):

Name of EWO (if applicable):

Name of PFSA (if applicable):

Reason for the part-time timetable/interventions tried:

Date of meeting agreeing the part-time timetable:

Start date of part-time timetable:

Number of hours in education each week:

Review date of part-time timetable:

End date of part-time timetable:

Time Table

Appendix 1 - **Part Time Timetable Consent Form**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Objectives of the part-time timetable/interventions to support:				
Any other comments relating to this part-time timetable:				

I understand my child has been placed on a part-time timetable for a limited period.

I have discussed the matter fully with the school and agree, during the period of the part-time timetable to:

- Take full responsibility for my child during the hours when not attending school.
- Ensure there is supervision of school work during those hours.
- Ensure there is a flow between school and home for marking and guidance.
- Take full responsibility for the health and safety on my child when they are not in school.

Signature (Parent/Carer) ..... Date .....

During the period of the part-time timetable the school will:

- Monitor the effectiveness of the part-time timetable.
- Hold a review on the agreed date.
- Provide work for the child to do whilst at home and mark all work complete.

Signature (School) ..... Date .....

Other signatures (if required):

SEN Caseworker ..... Date .....

Social Worker ..... Date .....

Virtual School Rep ..... Date .....

Education Welfare Officer ..... Date .....

YOT Officer ..... Date .....

This form should be retained with the pupil's school records and support any EHA