



Registered Charity 1171812

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

Summary	
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Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend the Connie Rothman Learning Trust due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the Connie Rothman Learning Trust is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority - The School inclusion service offer to schools: Autumn 2022

This local authority advice also takes into account the Department of Education document 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory guidance for local authorities' published May 2013

Responsibilities of the School

The BCP (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Council) School Inclusion service are responsible for arranging alternative provision for pupils who are unable to attend school because of illness or for another reason.

If parents provide the Connie Rothman Learning Trust with evidence from a medical consultant that a child is unable to attend school, the Pastoral Lead, or the SENDCo will contact schoolinclusion@bcpcouncil.gov.uk (in the case of a student from BCP) or the inclusion team of the relevant Local Authority for further discussion on how education can best be provided while the pupil is unable to attend.

If the school makes arrangements

Initially, (prior to a referral to BCP or the relevant LA), the Connie Rothman Learning Trust will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will be arranged by the Operational Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Pastoral Lead. This will be for absences that are less than 15 days. Teachers will be required to provide suitable work via the Connie Rothman Learning Trust's 'Microsoft Teams' platform.

- These arrangements will be monitored by the Operational Leadership Team.
- The Pastoral Lead or SENDCo will retain contact with the student and family. This will include a home visit every ten days.
- Students will be re-integrated after a period of absence via a meeting with the Pastoral Lead or SENDCo

If the local authority makes arrangements

The Department of Education document 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory guidance for local authorities' published May 2013 states that 'there is no absolute legal deadline by which LAs must have started to provide education for children with additional health needs (unlike for excluded children, where provision must begin by the sixth day of the exclusion). LAs should, however, arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to do so by the first day of absence. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, LAs should make arrangement in advance to allow provision to begin from day one'.

The current offer from BCP council

- The Inclusion team will arrange alternative provision for pupils who are unable to attend school because of illness or for another reason.
- The inclusion team will contact health professionals directly for medical information
- The Inclusion team will, in partnership with their home school, monitor the attendance and progress of pupils placed in alternative provision for the reasons listed above.

In these cases, the Connie Rothman Learning Trust 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 the Connie Rothman Learning Trust successfully
- Initiate an annual review of the student's EHCP (where necessary) in order for the EHC Plan to reflect the student's new medical needs

When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the Connie Rothman Learning Trust, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in the Connie Rothman Learning Trust as far as possible
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with Connie Rothman Learning Trust life (e.g. through emails, invitations to Connie Rothman Learning Trust events or any internet links to lessons or assemblies from the Connie Rothman Learning Trust)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to the Connie Rothman Learning Trust
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Head - Inclusion. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and guidance:

The Connie Rothman Learning Trust Attendance Policy