OAKLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

MAY 2026

Next Review Date: May 2027

Staff should make themselves aware of all policies and amendments or updates to policies and adhere to the same, which will be made available on relevant websites and internal data and computer systems.

Executive Summary – Oaklands Primary Academy – Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy May 2026:

Purpose of the Policy

The policy ensures that:

- Pupils who cannot attend school because of health needs continue to receive a suitable education.
- Parents, pupils and staff understand the school's responsibilities and the role of the local authority when alternative provision is needed.

School Responsibilities

The school commits to:

- Supporting pupils during extended absences due to physical or mental health conditions.
- Maintaining pupils' educational, social and emotional progress while absent.
- Working closely with parents and external agencies to achieve the best outcomes and enable a return to school as soon as possible.
- Supporting reintegration through tailored plans and ongoing communication.

Who the Policy Applies To

The policy covers pupils who:

- Are medically certified as too ill to attend school for more than 15 days.
- Experience recurrent absences due to ongoing health conditions.
- Have mental health difficulties preventing attendance.

It also recognises that some pupils may:

- Have disabilities protected under the Equality Act 2010.
- Have SEN or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.

Support Provided by the School

Where possible, the academy will initially arrange support itself, including:

- Consultation between the DSL/SENCo and parents.
- Regular contact from class teachers.
- Provision of paper-based or online learning.
- Access to electronic devices for online work.
- Scheduled video calls for educational or wellbeing support.
- Monitoring arrangements collaboratively with families.
- Planning for reintegration back into school.

When the Local Authority Becomes Involved

If the school cannot provide suitable education arrangements, the local authority takes responsibility.

The school may:

- Request review of an EHC Plan.
- Contact the Education Welfare Officer for tutoring support.
- Contact MASH or other agencies for additional family support.

The school will continue to:

- Work collaboratively with the local authority and health services.
- Share relevant information.
- Help ensure continuity of education and successful reintegration.

Reintegration Arrangements

The policy emphasises personalised reintegration plans, which may include:

- Phased returns.
- Flexible timetables.
- Remote learning support.
- Named key staff.
- Wellbeing support.
- Reasonable adjustments.
- Regular review meetings.
- Multi-agency collaboration.

Maintaining Connection with School

The school aims to keep absent pupils connected through:

- Access to the same curriculum where possible.
- Newsletters, emails and school event invitations.
- Online lesson links and communication with peers and staff.

Related Policies and Services

The policy links with:

- Accessibility Plan.
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Education Welfare Service.
- Bromley Education Gateway Panel guidance.

Monitoring and Review

- The policy is reviewed annually.
- Approved by the CET Board and Local Governing Body.
- Next review date: May 2027.

OAKLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

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

For some pupils, their health condition will require them to have an extended period of time out of school. The school will do all that it can to ensure that such children are supported through their period of absence from school and sensitively re-integrated once they are well enough to attend.

The school's co-ordinator for children with medical needs will take an active and continuing role in their educational, social and emotional progress. The school will at all times aim to work in partnership with parents to ensure the best possible outcomes and a return to school as soon as possible.

Where a child's health condition requires an extended period of absence from school, the school may need to seek the assistance of the Education Welfare Service and/or the Education Gateway Panel.

Staff at the service, including hospital tutors, will support pupils who are temporarily unable to attend classes on a full-time basis. These pupils may be:

(a) Children who have been deemed by a medical practitioner as being too ill to attend the school for more than 15 days or who have conditions which lead to recurrent absences from school which becomes significant in the longer term.
(b) Pupils with mental health problems who are unable to attend school.

Some children with medical conditions may have a disability. Where this is the case the governing body will comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

The school will continue to maintain a contact with a pupil who is unwell and not attending and will contribute to their academic and reintegration plans in order that they may enjoy a continuous level of education and support from the school during their period of absence. This may include providing to Education Welfare Service/Education Gateway Panel relevant information about the child, helping to maintain contact with parents, assisting with and guiding the work of the child, supporting the process of achieving public examinations or taking part in National Curriculum tests and providing emotional support at the level of teacher and peer involvement. The school will do all that it can to maintain links with appropriate agencies including the Educational Welfare Service, Education Gateway Panel and the Educational Psychology Service. Reintegration back into school will be properly supported so that children with medical conditions fully engage with learning and do not fall behind when they are unable to attend.

Where appropriate, the school will implement an individualised reintegration plan following prolonged absence. This may include phased returns, flexible timetables, remote learning support, identified key staff, wellbeing support, reasonable adjustments, regular review meetings and multi-agency collaboration to support the pupil's successful return to education.

3.1 If the Academy School makes arrangements

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

- The DSL/SENCo will consult with the parents to arrange the best possible educational support for the pupil
- The class teacher will conduct regular telephone consultations with the parents
- The support may include liaising with the teacher to prepare paper-based or on-line work for the pupil
- The support may include providing an electronic device so the pupils can access work on line
- The support may include scheduled video calls from the class teacher who will offer educational or well-being support
- The class teacher and DSL/SENCo will work in partnership to monitor the arrangements
- The DSL/SENCo and class teacher will work in partnership with the parents to re-integrate the pupils to school

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the Academy School can't make suitable arrangements, our local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

If the Academy School is unable to meet the needs of the pupil then it will seek support from the Local Authority on the following:

- Review the pupils EHC plan if one is in place
- Contact the Education Welfare Officer for support with home off site tutoring
- Contact MASH to sign post the parents to additional agencies for support

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the Academy 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
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Supporting Policies and Useful Information

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Education Welfare Service
Education - Gateway Panel | Instructions – London Borough of Bromley

Monitoring and Implementation Policy

The policy is reviewed annually, although the Trust may vary or amend it periodically to ensure that we fulfil our obligation around the Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy. All proposed changes to this policy would be made following the approval from the Committee.

	Name	Date
Policy written by	CET Board	May 2026
Review by Committee	CET Board	May 2026
Approved by Committee	CET Board	July 2026
Adopted by Governing Board	CET Board/LGB	October 2026
To be reviewed annually		
Review by	May 2027	