

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

2025/2026

Date of Approval:	Approved by LAB December 2023
Approved by:	LAB
Date of next Review:	December 2026



Thornhill
Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs

This policy sets out our approach to children with health needs who cannot attend school across **Consilium Academies**.

Section(s) **3**, set(s) out the specific local arrangements for **Thornhill Academy**.

- 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](#).

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

It is the duty of the pupil's school to provide learning resources that enable the pupil to access a broad and balanced curriculum and ensure continuity in the pupil's education.

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.

Contact should be made with the pupils relevant Head of Year to notify them of the medical condition, the impact of this on the child's education and any identified barriers.

The Head of Year will liaise with the Head of Safeguarding and Wellbeing and Attendance Manager to create a plan for the child's education.

Arrangements may include alternative provision of work through the use of technology, work provided at an alternative venue such as the hospital or work allocated by teaching staff for a short period of time.

The Head of Year, Head of Safeguarding and Wellbeing and Attendance manager will meet with the family and where possible student to agree a plan of support.

Any plan in place for a child who cannot attend due to a medical condition will be monitored through the schools PASS meeting agenda.

Reintegration planning will occur based on the individual needs of the child and any ongoing reasonable adjustments that are advised by medical professionals working with the pupils. This will be clearly set out in a reintegration planning meeting.

At all times the Academy SENDCO will be aware of the needs and a review of the appropriateness of adding the child to the schools SEND register will take place.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Thornhill Academy will make an application to together for children's vulnerable pupil panel to request an assessment for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

Information will be submitted requesting appropriate education for the pupil based on the known period of absence, the medical needs and barriers associated with the individual medical condition preventing attendance in school. Thornhill Academy will follow Together for children Vulnerable Pupil panel protocols at all times.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school and 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 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. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Leigh Coates Head of Safeguarding and Wellbeing. At every review, it will be approved by the full board of trustees.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Young carers policy
- Attendance policy

