

UK Response to HOPE letter on
'Education of children/youth with
medical needs in hospital or at
home'

Dear Mrs Falk-Schalk,

Further to the emails below, here is the United Kingdom's response to the letter that you wrote to our Minister, regarding the Education of children/youth with medical needs in hospital or at home.

Please find below the answers to the specific questions from the Department for Children, Schools and Families:

1. *Is there any legislation in your country that guarantees the educational rights of the child or adolescent suffering from illness be they at home or in hospital? If so, and if possible please include a copy of the legal text or a summary in English.*

Response: Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 provides that, "Each local education authority shall make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reasons of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them."

2. *Is there any regulatory body that oversees the implementation of this law? How does this body ensure that the objectives are met?*

Response: Both the local authority and schools have duties under the Education Act 1996. Monitoring of Local Authorities and Schools is by inspections undertaken by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

3. *Would it be possible for you to send us any statistics relating to numbers of pupils who have had to stay an extra school year because of illness or because of lack of continuation in their education?*

Response: Unfortunately we do not have any easily accessible data to send on this area.

4. *Is there any specialized education for teachers, both working in hospital or in mainstream education in your country? Please further a curriculum.*

Response: All maintained schools follow the National Curriculum. Children that are suffering from illness should receive an education of similar quality to that available in school, including a broad and balanced curriculum, but the amount of education will depend on medical advice and the child's ability to cope with it.

Please [find attached two documents](#) – **one is the full guidance**, and the other is a **summary document 'Access to Education for children and young people with Medical needs'**.

I hope that these answers and the attached documents are helpful; please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Kind regards,

Emma

Emma Payne

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