Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

Section 19

Information for parents and carers

What is Section 19?

Section 19 is there to help children who are unable to attend school because of illness or other circumstances. Gloucestershire County Council will look at your child's individual situation and decide whether it has a duty to arrange education for them.

Who is eligible?

Your child may be considered for Section 19 if they are:

- of compulsory school age
- a resident in Gloucestershire
- unable to attend school because of:
  - illness (including health needs)
  - permanent exclusion from school
  - or other reasons where it is not reasonably possible for them to access their school, despite support and reasonable adjustments.

How does it work?

We assess each request individually, based on your child's needs and circumstances.
Your child may be discussed by a multi-agency panel, giving consideration to your child's age ability, aptitude and health needs.
If it is deemed to be required, we will arrange an appropriate alternative education provision as set out in the GCC Attendance and Section 19 Policy and national guidance.
Provision is intended to be short term. The policy is clear that planning for, and taking steps towards, reintegration back to the school site is a requirement and will be part of the support offered.

Will my child remain on school roll?

Yes. Your child will remain on the roll of their current school. We work in partnership with schools to ensure a coordinated approach to your child's education. A transition back to school is always the aim with Section 19 provision.

What if my child has an EHCP?

Concerns should be raised with your child's EHCP case co-ordinator in the first instance so that consideration can be given to whether an interim or annual review might be required.

Is it the same as Home Education?

No. Section 19 is not the same as Elective Home Education (EHE). EHE is a parental choice to educate their child at home. Section 19 is arranged by GCC when a child cannot attend school and would not otherwise receive an education.

Where can I find further information?

You can read more about Section 19, including our policy and related information, on our website:

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 | Gloucestershire County Council

How do I request support?

Referrals for Section 19 support are made by school.
If you would like to discuss your child's needs, please speak to your child's school in the first instance. You can also fill out our parent enquiry form.