



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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority: Norfolk County Council policy on supporting children who are unable to attend school because of health needs.

3. The responsibilities of the school and the local authority

School.

Schools in Norfolk, as in the rest of the country, are required by law to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions. Also see the school's **Support and Management of Pupils with Medical Needs Policy**. This duty is detailed in Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and statutory guidance entitled Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions has been produced by the Department for Education in order to assist schools to understand and comply with this legislation.

The keys points detailed in the guidance indicate that:

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.

- Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENDCO or headteacher will take the lead in doing this. Arrangements might include sending work home, hospital schools etc. We will, wherever possible, consult parents and children about these arrangements during set up and regularly after set up to see if they need amending. We will also consult parents and children about how to reintegrate pupils back into school e.g gradually stepping up a part time timetable.

Local authority.

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, a referral can be made to the Medical Needs Service. This service can provide online learning through the E-learning service or TUTE programme. A referral can be made to this service once the child has been away from school for 15 or more days in one academic year.

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

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher/SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Support and Management of pupils with medical needs policy