

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Review Cycle	Annually
Committee	Local Governing Board
Adopted	November 2022
Review Date	November 2023

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.

2. Legislation and guidance

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on maintained schools and academies to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Local Authorities also have key responsibilities in championing the needs of these children and young people, and in providing education to children and young people where they are unable to attend school due to ill health. The Department of Education issues statutory guidance for schools and Local Authorities to follow in relation to children and young people with medical conditions.

The key responsibilities for schools within the statutory guidance document [supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) include the following:

- Children with medical conditions should be able to access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.
- No child with a medical condition can be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made. However, governing bodies do not have to accept a child in school at times where it would be detrimental to the health of that child or others.

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our Local Authority.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/support-services/medical-needs-education-provision#:~:text=Schools%20can%20make%20a%20medical,more%2C%20whether%20consecutive%20or%20cumulative.>

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 School arrangements

Initially, the school will make arrangements to deliver suitable education for pupils with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The SENDCO, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for attendance and the Head of Primary Phase will work in partnership to determine who will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements on a case by case basis.
- The school will consult with parents about these arrangements by telephone or email.
- For a short-term absence, we will send some work home to complete through Microsoft Teams, INSIGHT or by inviting the pupil to attend Blended Learning through Microsoft Teams. This work will be as closely matched to the work being completed by the pupil's classes as possible.
- For longer term absences (15 days or more) the school will seek to offer educational provision via the Medical Needs Service.
- A reintegration programme will be implemented as required, co-ordinated by The SENDCO, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for attendance or the Head of Primary Phase as required.
- Our room 2 facility may be offered if appropriate as an interim stage in the re-integration process , allowing students to attend some or all of their normal lessons virtually via TEAMS as a halfway house back into school.

3.2 Local Authority arrangements

Medical Needs Co-ordinator

The Medical Needs Co-ordinator is responsible for the education of children with additional health needs in Norfolk. They work with schools and professionals to ensure children and young people with medical needs and those who cannot attend school receive a good education.

Services provided by the Co-ordinator

- Parents can contact the coordinator to discuss their child's specific circumstances. This may be particularly appropriate if they feel their child's medical needs are not being addressed.
- Schools can contact the coordinator to get support, advice and guidance in relation to medical needs.

The coordinator will also liaise with professionals and colleagues. This is to ensure children with additional health needs are able to access a suitable education.

Contacting the coordinator

Email: medicalneeds@norfolk.gov.uk

Address: Professional Development Centre, 144 Woodside Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 9QL.

Making a medical needs referral

Schools can make a medical needs referral for a pupil who cannot attend school because of health needs, if the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

What happens next?

Following the acceptance of a referral:

- A planning meeting will be held to decide how provision will be delivered. This will be for an initial period of 12 school weeks (or for the period that a child is absent from school, whichever is shorter).

If after this initial period the child is unable to return to school, further medical advice will be required in order for the provision to continue.

Information about how medical needs provision is planned and delivered, along with how reintegration to school can be supported, is outlined in the Local Authority's medical needs policy, available at: [Medical Needs Service](#).

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 links to lessons).
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school as required.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Paul Clark (Assistant Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance.
- Accessibility plan.
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions.