

Review Cycle	Annually
SLT member responsible	DK
Committee	Local Governing Board
Last review	September 2026
Next Review Date	September 2027

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

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

Responsibilities of the school

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, for example directing to resources available online. The school may need to request medical evidence that a pupil is unable to attend school for example in the form of a hospital letter, call from nursing team, GP letter prior to putting in place any plans for education off site if the absence is for 15 days or more.

For shorter term absences, such as broken limbs and longer absences for example hospitalisations the school health care practitioner will work closely with any medical professionals associated in the healthcare of a pupil. They will put in place any appropriate arrangements such as arranging for work to be provided to the home, use of hospital school, by liaising with pastoral support in school, home and medical professionals. The Health Care Practitioner will also coordinate reintegration of the pupil back into school, agreeing arrangements with attendance team and Associate Assistant Headteacher. If the absence is due to other health concerns the Pastoral Team in school will then lead on support provided and reintegration after absence.

The school will not automatically provide work to pupils where health needs are cited as the reason for absence by the parent/carer. The school may request further information from a medical professional working with the pupil prior to any decisions made in order to ensure the appropriate support is put in place.

If a medical professional has stated that a pupil will have an absence for more than 15 days, the school will contact the Local Authority (LA) Medical Needs Service in order to seek LA support for the education of the pupil.

If the local authority (LA) makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements or the pupil will be absent for more than 15 days due to Health Needs, Norfolk County Council will become involved in supporting education for these pupils.

- The LA Medical Needs Team are provided with medical evidence and decide on whether they will become involved. The school is still responsible for education and checking the wellbeing of the pupil.

In cases where the local authority is involved, 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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher responsible. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- NCC Medical Needs Service <https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/schools/files/pupilneeds/medical-needs-service/medical-needs-service-policy.pdf>