

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Acton CEVC Primary School



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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 is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

and by our local authority: *Supporting children with medical needs*, Suffolk County Council (July 2022)

3. The responsibilities of the school

The local authority places a duty on the governing body to make arrangements for children who cannot access school because of their medical needs. In doing so, it should ensure that these children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.

The focus of arrangements should be on the needs of each individual child and the impact of the medical condition on school life. The outcome should be that parents and children have confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support in school.

It is recognised that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their mainstream school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into mainstream education at the earliest opportunity as soon as they are well enough. Arrangements for reintegration will be discussed with school staff and each child or young person will have a personalised reintegration plan.

3.1 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.

- The Class Teacher will work together with the Headteacher and SENCo to make and monitor these arrangements
- Arrangements would include work being sent home, access to the school's online learning platform, which enables participation in live class learning sessions, or collaboration with a hospital school
- Where required, resources will be provided to ensure equality of access to learning
- The Class Teacher, Headteacher and SENCo will work in partnership with parents and health professionals to draw up a personalised learning plan appropriate to the child's medical and learning needs
- At the earliest possible time, a personalised timetable for reintegration will be made in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals and, where appropriate, the Alternative Tuition Service (ATS)
- Staff will be given access to the necessary training, where required, to support the pupil's medical needs
- Where necessary, further advice and guidance will be sought from the Local Authority's Inclusion Consultant and Corporate Health and Safety Adviser

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Suffolk County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

- Arrangements are considered suitable when such reasonable adjustments are able to be made that a pupil is able to sustain their education
- The Local Authority has a duty to work with the school to be ready to make arrangements when it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs (including mental health needs)
- When it becomes clear that despite reasonable adjustments being made, a pupil's medical needs prevent them from sustaining their education at school then school will make a referral to the ATS via the referral form found on the Suffolk Local Offer and Suffolk Learning

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required

- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- 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. At every review, it will be approved by the Standards Committee.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- SEND policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy