Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Date established by governing body
Autumn Term 2026
Date for full implementation
Immediately
Date for review
Autumn Term 2027

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/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

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
- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

It is also based on guidance provided by Northumberland Local Authority.

Responsibilities

School Arrangements

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

The teacher will be responsible along with the Phase Lead for making and monitoring these arrangements. The Attendance Lead will have oversight of the arrangements.

Arrangements made could include; remote learning, sending work home, resources to support EHCP targets, resources to support communication, equipment to support physical need and regulation, multi-agency working, for e.g. with CYPS and Children's Services.

Parents and pupils (where appropriate) will be involved and consulted about these arrangements.

A package of support both at home and in school will be made available to reintegrate pupils back into school after a period of absence.

The attendance lead will regularly review the arrangements in place for the student to ensure that it continues to meet the child's educational needs and oversee revisions to the arrangements.

Where possible, the child's health needs should be managed by the home school so that they can continue to be educated there with support, and without the need for the intervention of the local authority.

The attendance lead will liaise with the local authority where alternative provision is assessed as being necessary and / or appropriate as part of the school arrangements.

Local Authority 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, the local authority, Northumberland 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.

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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead with responsibility for attendance. At every annual review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Cleaswell Hill School Strategic Approach to Attendance
- Working Together to improve School attendance (DfE September 2022)
- Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance (DfE September 2022)

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Date: Autumn 2026