

Policy for Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Approved by:	Strategic Direction Committee	Date: 15 th June 2021
Last reviewed on:	15 th June 2021	
Next review due by:	June 2023	

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. The responsibilities of the school	2
4. Monitoring arrangements.....	3
5. Links to other policies	3

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.

3. The responsibilities of the school

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 headteacher and senior leadership team will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements in the first instance along with the class teacher.
- Work may be provided in a number of ways dependent on the needs of the child and their ability to access learning. These may include, but are not exclusive to:
 - Work set on online learning platforms such as Tapestry, Class Dojo 9school digital devices may be loaned if required)
 - Work packs sent home and returned to school for marking and feedback
- Prior to any work being set we will consult with the child's parent/carer about the suitability of any home learning given the child's health needs. This discussion will include the amount of work set, how the child will access the learning and how feedback will be given, whether the child needs to borrow a digital device to access their learning, the capacity of parents to support the child at home and any support they require, how parents/carers can share any concerns they have about their child's learning at home.
- When a child is ready to be reintegrated into the school we will hold a meeting with parents/carers and any relevant services to discuss how to best manage this.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

All information below is provided by Northumberland County Council

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Northumberland County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. A referral would be made to EOTAS (Education Other than at school)

The EOTAS Health Needs team provides for learners who are of statutory school age but who are unable to attend school full time due to **health and medical needs**. Tuition is provided on a one to one basis or in small groups depending on the needs of each individual pupil. The link below provides a summary of the service provided by this team:

- [10 things you should know about the education of pupils with health needs](#) (see also Appendix A)

Medical needs: referrals are usually made by Education Welfare Officers or the headteacher with confirmation in writing from a medical professional (usually a consultant rather than a GP) that the learner is unable to attend school because of their medical condition.

Mental health needs: referrals are usually made by Education Welfare Officers or headteacher with confirmation in writing from a mental health professional that the learner is unable to attend school because of their mental health condition.

For advice or guidance if a pupil has medical or health needs, please telephone 01670 624182.

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 bi-annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Strategic Direction Committee of the Governing Body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND

• Educational responsibility still lies with the school

Appendix A

10 things you should know about pupils with health needs

1. The Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) Health Needs team fulfils the local authority's duty to provide education for those children who are not attending school full time because of a diagnosed health condition.
2. The education provision is delivered by a large team of fully qualified teachers. Provision is tailored to individual needs and the aim is to deliver teaching which allows the young person to achieve well. Pupils are entered for GCSE or other accredited qualifications. At GCSE the team focuses on supporting the child to achieve qualifications in English, maths and science.
3. All referrals to the team must be submitted on the official referral form, known as a passport, which is available here on the Northumberland Virtual School webpage.
4. Referrals to EOTAS should be made by the school where the pupil is on roll. Professionals from social care, health or the Education Welfare team may be involved in the referral process and make recommendations, however all referrals submitted **must** be on the current passport and should be submitted by the school.
5. Supporting medical evidence must be provided by the Children & Young People's Service (CYPS), paediatricians or specialist clinicians. These professionals will provide the clinical reason the child cannot attend school full time, may make recommendations in relation to the duration the young person may be out of school and the type of teaching that would be most suitable (eg teaching at home, 1:1 teaching or attendance at group sessions).
6. The EOTAS (health needs) team only works with young people who are on a school roll. They do not provide teaching to children who have been permanently excluded or in situations where families have chosen to electively home educate their child.
7. Referrals are reviewed at a weekly triage meeting and will not proceed until the service has received both the completed passport and supporting medical evidence.
8. There is no legal timeframe by which local authorities must have started to provide education for children with health needs. We will work in partnership with all professionals and families to provide the most suitable provision as quickly as possible.
9. The team works with schools to set up an individually tailored re-integration plan for each child. These plans will be based on consultation with families, health professionals and schools.
10. The EOTAS health needs provision is funded by reclaiming individual pupil funding (or AWPU) from the school where the pupil is on roll and by funding provided by the local authority. Pupils remain on the roll of their school throughout the provision and schools are expected to monitor the quality of the provision and progress closely.

Carol Leckie: Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team Manager
Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk 01670 622720 Schools' Safeguarding in the
Virtual School

-
- Educational responsibility still lies with the school