



Children with medical and health needs who cannot attend 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 their 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

Schools are required by law to make arrangements to support any pupil with a health / medical condition. This duty is detailed in Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and in the Department for Education's Statutory Guidance Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

Schools should also take account of the non-statutory guidance Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools November 2018.

This policy also links with the policies held by local councils for supporting children who are unable to attend school because medical or health needs.

Link for Cornwall Local Authority Policy

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/special-educational-needs/sen-information-and-resources/meeting-the-needs-of-pupils-with-medical-needs/>

Link for Devon Local Authority Policy

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/document/education-for-children-with-additional-health-needs-unable-to-attend-school/>

Link for Plymouth Local Authority Policy

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/provision-pupils-medical-needs>

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 Arrangements made by the school

The school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. This will be through virtual learning routes based on a secure connection which will offer the young person the opportunity to join with lessons happening in school as usual. In this way barriers caused by needing to be at home for a period of time can be partially mitigated and the young person will not miss out on the social and learning activities happening in the class.

The school will use online support through the variety of available appropriate media to make secure contact with young people who cannot attend school.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that young people off school due to medical or health needs have the opportunity to be included in daily learning, where this is suitable. For some young people, learning in this way will not be suitable as the child may not be able to physically cope with the pressure of learning or may not be learning at a level where they can gain meaningful education through this route. Where this may be the case, we will make at least weekly contact with families, offer suggestions of curriculum activities and life skills based learning activities and monitor this for the duration of the absence from school.

Cann Bridge School have close relationships with families and our teachers will consult with them to determine the best approach for supporting a child's education if they are unable to be at school. A record of the arrangements made will be kept on CPOMS to ensure we can log the impact of time away from school.

When pupils are ready to come back to school, we will accommodate a phased return or part time attendance if this is necessary. All arrangements will be considered bespoke and designed to meet the individual child's needs. The agreed return arrangements will also be recorded on CPOMS for completeness. Careful checks will be made of the impact of school on a young person's overall health and wellbeing and conversations between family and school will continue until the child is fully back to school. The school NHS nursing team will provide support for any interventions of a medical nature where required, to ensure that the young person's medical needs are managed effectively in school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the child's home Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. This would only come into force in the case of a child being moved to an out of county location for their care or accommodation needs.

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. the means listed above using online apps and virtual learning)
 - 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 School Leadership Team. On review, it will be approved by the full Governing Board. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that this policy is implemented.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility plan
- Supporting children with medical conditions in school