



Children Who Cannot Attend School for Health Reasons policy

Reviewed by:	Teaching and Learning Committee
Reviewed when	March 2020
Next review	March 2023
Source and date of model policy, if applicable	Various

This policy has been written with regard to the DfE guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' and Cambridgeshire County Council guidance.

Schools are required by law to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions. This duty is detailed in Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and statutory guidance entitled *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions* has been produced by the Department for Education in order to assist schools to understand and comply with this legislation.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

Children and young people who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs will include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties/school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illness
- Chronic illnesses

The Trumpington Federation is committed to ensuring that all children at the Federation receive a good education in order to maximise the learning potential of each individual. We aim to ensure that all of our children are given the opportunity of an inclusive education that meets their specific needs.

Children and young people who have additional health needs are, by the nature of their difficulties, at risk of failing to reach their true potential within an educational context. This is particularly the case for those children and young people whose health needs prevent them from attending school for an extended period of time, or for those who are restricted by their health needs from attending school on a part-time or sporadic basis.

The Role of the Federation

We will ensure that children who are absent from school because of their medical needs have the educational support they need to maintain their education. The Federation understands that it is central to communication between home, school, Local Authority (LA) and Health Services. At all times the absent child remains on a roll and is the responsibility of the Federation.

Our named person responsible for dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs is Kate Barham and/or Rachael Tomlin.

The Federation / named person will:

- Notify the Local Authority (LA)/ Education Welfare Officer (EWO) if a pupil is, or is likely to be, away from school due to medical needs for more than 15 working days. The Local Authority will then commence arrangements to ensure suitable provision of education
- In the case of a pupil who is expected to be absent for 15 working days or less, and where this is not part of a pattern of absence related to a chronic or recurring illness, make arrangements in liaison with the pupil's parents to provide the pupil with homework as soon as they become able to cope with it.

- Supply the appropriate education provider with information about a pupil's capabilities, educational progress and programmes of work.
- Be active in the monitoring of progress and in the reintegration into school, liaising with other agencies as necessary.
- Ensure that pupils are kept informed about school social events, clubs, study support and other activities.
- Encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, e.g. through visits and videos.
- Draw up a Personal Education Plan (PEP)*, which is agreed with health professionals to include:
 - ☐ Provision for homework and materials when appropriate
 - ☐ Provision of assessment and curriculum plans
 - ☐ Termly work programmes

On occasion the Federation may need to seek the support from SEND Specialist Services for pupils who are temporarily unable to attend school on a full time basis. The aim of SEND Specialist Services is to reintegrate these pupils back into full time education at the earliest opportunity. Reintegration objectives are established as soon as it is appropriate – as part of the PEP. The planning for reintegration, and the nature of provision, must be responsive to a changing medical status. How and when pupils access the curriculum will depend on their medical condition.

The child will:

- engage with the school / alternative provision provider
- be prepared to communicate their views;
- engage with other agencies as appropriate;
- prepare for reintegration as soon as possible.

The parent(s)/carer(s) will:

- commit to a plan of reintegration;
- be willing to work together with all concerned;
- provide early communication if a problem arises or help is needed;
- attend necessary meetings;
- reinforce with their child, the value of a return to school.

If pupils and/or parents/carers fail to engage with the reintegration process, the Federation may source additional support from SEND Specialist Services, START (in the case that the child has an EHCP), the Education Welfare Officer or social care, in collaboration with parents. This may involve, but not be restricted to, implementing a reduced timetable, off-site provision or a managed move.

The governing body will review this policy on a regular basis and receive reports from the Executive Headteacher regarding any children it applies to.

When a child returns to school after a period of illness, the Executive Headteacher / Head of School will consider, if necessary and subject to consultation with parents, exception from the full range of National Curriculum requirements.

Reintegration

The aim of the Federation will be to reintegrate pupils back into school at the earliest opportunity as soon as they are well enough. A reintegration programme will be put together following discussion with the child or young person, parent/carers, school, relevant health professional(s) and other involved agencies as appropriate.

In some cases it may not be possible for the child to return to school on a full-time basis initially. Arrangements for reintegration (or any future education arrangements) will need to take into account any ongoing health problems or disabilities they may have.

Hospital in-patients

In advance of a proposed discharge, particularly in the instance that an alternative educational provision is being proposed, parents/carers or professionals working with a child who falls into this category should contact their case work officer at START (for children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan) or, for children without an EHCP contact Kate Barham and/or Rachael Tomlin at the Federation to discuss future educational provision.

SEN

Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) will have an active ADPR (Assess, Plan, Do, Review). The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator liaises with the link practitioner at SEND Specialist Services and, where the child also has an EHCP, with the case work officer at START.