



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

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All children have a right to education, regardless of whether they can attend school or not. Some children, due to the nature of their health needs, may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of educational provision but remain the responsibility of either Foxhills infant or junior schools whilst they remain on roll.

Both schools recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their allocated school with the aim to re-integrate them if they are not attending as soon as possible. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support, to enable them to maintain links with their education, their friends and the federation's curriculum.

The Foxhills Federation aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their health needs dictate, our goal being that children reach their full potential so they become knowledgeable, emotionally secure (resilient, confident and capable) and empowered, so they can take advantage of experiences and opportunities in education and life.

AIMS

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure suitable education is arranged for pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs;
- To ensure children, staff and parents understand the school's responsibilities when education is being provided by the local authority.

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'.

The Federation's responsibilities

When either school makes arrangements:

Initially, the relevant school will work with parents to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. These arrangements will be drawn together in a formal plan, following co-construction between school and Parents, so they are agreed. The arrangements will be held under close review (fortnightly reviews) to ensure they remain relevant and effective, and will aim to reintegrate the child as soon as possible.

The plan will be used to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include, but are not limited to:

- sending work home
- attending a hospital school



- attending the home to deliver lessons (usually delivered by a teaching assistant but planned by teachers)
- attending alternative provision that is deemed suitable by the school for meeting the child's needs
- providing home tutoring (by an external, local authority approved provider)

At the right time, the pupil will be integrated back into school, at a pace suitable for them. It may be necessary to make alternative arrangements for break and lunchtime, or a pupil may come back into school on reduced hours provision until their health needs have been met. This will be assessed individually and all arrangements will be with parental agreement.

When the Local Authority makes arrangements:

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education. The LA should provide suitable education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the individual.

The LA must ensure the education pupils receive is high quality, relevant and purposeful (enables them to access and take appropriate qualifications) and must prevent them from falling behind their peers in school. The LA must :

- Consider the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age. The LA should not: Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Not withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
- Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children, and policies which result in children receiving suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in). 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, the school will 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.

The Governing Board and Head Teacher are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for pupils who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.



- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The SENDCo is responsible for:

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- The Family Partnership Worker will provide a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA.

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

Absences

Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness. Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.

The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.

For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the named person with responsibility for pupils with health needs (Family Partnership Worker) will notify the LA, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.

Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.

For hospital admissions, the appointed named member of staff will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.

The LA will set up a personal education plan (PEP) for the pupil which will allow the school, the LA and the provider of the pupil's education to work together.

The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

The school will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where: The pupil has been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age; and Neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.



A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school's medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the pupil's education.

Support for children

Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil. The LA expects the school to support pupils with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to pupils' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.

The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.

Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school via newsletters, invitations to school events, cards or letters from peers and staff. Contact with Parents will also be maintained, usually by email. Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member;
- Access to additional support in school;
- Online access to the curriculum from home;
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms;
- Places to rest at school;
- Special testing (SATS) arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board. Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting pupils with additional health needs, and to parents and pupils themselves.

Definitions of children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

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

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.



This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy
- Supporting pupils with medical needs policy.