Hillside Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy



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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 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. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

- To enable children with medical conditions to be able to access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.
- To facilitate training for staff to provide the support that children with medical conditions require.
- To facilitate training for staff to give prescription medicines or to undertake healthcare procedures when necessary.
- To ensure that no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their medical condition have not been made unless this is detrimental to the health of the child in question or other children.
- To have a policy for supporting children with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and readily accessible to parents and staff.
- The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for its implementation.
- The policy should include individual healthcare plans (IHPs) and who is responsible for their development. IHPs should be reviewed at least annually.

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 child's class teacher will be responsible for making these arrangements and they will be monitored by the Head Teacher and SENCo.
- Arrangements that could be made might be to teach the child via Zoom, online activities through Oak Academy or to send hard copies of work home. The learning should copy objectives that are taught to peers in school. An adult will monitor learning and wellbeing daily (if appropriate and practical) by virtual communication with the child.
- Parents and children will be consulted about these arrangements either by home visit, a meeting in school or by telephone or video conferencing.
- The child's learning programme will be reviewed weekly with the intention of reintegrating them into school life full time, possibly following a period of transition which would include a part time timetable being built up to full time.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Norfolk County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- The school can make a medical needs referral for a child who cannot attend school because of health needs if the child will be away for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. These should be sent to the medical needs coordinator: medicalneeds@norfolk.gov.uk
- The medical needs coordinator will contact the short stay school.
- A planning meeting will be held to decide how provision will be delivered. This will be for an initial period of 12 school weeks (or the period the child is absent if that is shorter). If the child is then still unable to return to school further medical advice will be required in order for provision to continue.
- Full information about how medical needs provision is planned and delivered by NCC, along with how reintegration to school can be supported, is all outlined in their medical needs policy that can be found at: https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/pupil-needs/health-needs/medical-needs-service

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. class dojo, newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or Teams/Zoom links to their class)
    - 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 every 2 years by the Head Teacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies/procedures:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Designated Governor: Full Governing Body

Name/Signature of Headteacher: Simon Minter

Date: July 2026

Review date: July 2028