

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: 20.9.21
Last reviewed on:	20.9.21	
Next review due by:	See policy Log	

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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

At Fairstead Community Primary and Nursery School we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education Guidance and work with Norfolk Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health.

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, for example where;

- the child can still attend school with some support;
- the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child;
- the child can attend school but only intermittently
- arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an onsite hospital school.

For a short-term absence, this will mean sending some work home to complete. It will be as closely matched to the work being completed by the child's class as possible. We may use Microsoft TEAMS, Tapestry or J2E to send work electronically. Your child may also be invited to join lessons virtually via Microsoft TEAMS to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child's health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).

We will work with parents/carers to ensure we fully understand the child's medical as well as their social and emotional needs. Our school SENCO, Mrs Redden is the key point of contact to arrange support for a child with health needs who cannot attend school. Our Inclusion lead will ensure that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to a child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.

When a child returns to school we will ensure they have a successful reintegration into their class. We will endeavor to do this by ensuring they have a 'buddy' at playtimes and lunchtimes, additional sessions with a teaching assistant and we will provide social and emotional support where necessary. Our Inclusion Team will be available to support the child whilst they transition back into school.

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.

For longer term absences (ie 15 days or more) our local authority offer educational provision via the Medical Needs Service.

The medical needs coordinator is responsible for the education of children with additional health needs in Norfolk. They work with schools and professionals to ensure children and young people with medical needs and those who cannot attend school receive a good education.

Contacting the coordinator

Email: medicalneeds@norfolk.gov.uk

Address: Professional Development Centre, 144 Woodside Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 9QL

Making a medical needs referral

Schools can make a medical needs referral for a child who cannot attend school because of health needs. It must be clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. Medical needs referrals will normally be made by the school where your child is on roll and need to be accompanied by appropriate information from a health professional.

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 annually by Kate Redden. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding
- Attendance
- Special Educational Needs and Disability