



Staploe Education Trust:  
Primary Schools

# Children with health needs who cannot attend primary school policy

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Author:	Director of Complex Needs for Staploe Education Trust - Primary
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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](#) and Department for Education guidance on [support](#) and [responsibilities](#) where a mental health difficulty is affecting attendance.

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

### 3. The responsibilities of the school

Following a health-related school absence of 15 days or more the school will inform the local authority of the arrangements for a child's education through an Early Help Assessment (EHA) in the first instance.

The school will work with parents, children and health professionals to ensure a comprehensive overview of the health needs of the child and ensure provision of a good education within the limitations of ill health. This will be conducted through a Team Around the Family (TAF) and documented through EHA and TAF meeting notes. These will be shared with local authority and the members of the team as soon as possible after the meeting.

#### 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.

A child who is unable to attend school due to health needs will be added to the schools Special Educational Needs and Disability register. The Special Educational Needs Co-

ordinator (SENCo) will take responsibility for arranging and monitoring the provision and the content of the provision will be the responsibility of the class/subject teachers.

Although individual situations will vary and flexibility can be expected, the likely arrangements will include work being sent home, marking and feedback on work by class teacher in line with schools marking and assessment policy, and telephone support for children and parents/carers while studying from home, as needed. Where a child is studying through a hospital school full support for this provision will be provided with the SENCo acting as link professional.

Parents and young people will be consulted through regular TAF meetings and EHA reviews and the provision arrangements and medical needs will be clearly documented within these, alongside any mid and long term planning. These will also be shared with the local authority.

Returning to school for a child who has not been able to attend due to health needs is often a challenging prospect. Phased returns would be the expected approach, mapped and monitored through TAF meetings and EHA reviews. Health professionals would be expected to input into these meetings to inform the best possible return within the context of the health needs.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

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

If during TAF meetings it is identified that the child's health needs will be persistent and limit their access to school and mainstream provision in the long term then a request for an Education, Health and Care Assessment will be made if a paediatrician is in agreement. A decision about this will be made, through TAF, within 30 days of the first day of illness.

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

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by Staploe Education Trust's Director of Complex Needs for primary schools. At every review, it will be approved by the Advisory Bodies.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEN
- Safeguarding and Child Protection