



Kennett 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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The [Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

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, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of 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 school's 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 the school's 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 our school cannot make suitable arrangements or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Cambridgeshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

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 agrees. 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 the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the child.

- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this. Help make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and where appropriate through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. 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