



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Committee responsible for policy	Hobart High School LGB

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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](#) and the DfE guidance '[Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)'.

It also based on [guidance provided by our local authority](#) (Norfolk County Council). This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The Norfolk County Council Medical Needs Service Policy states the following:

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on maintained schools and academies to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Local authorities also have key responsibilities in championing the needs of these children and young people, and in providing education to children and young people where they are unable to attend school due to ill health.

Our responsibilities and actions as a school will include:

- Pupils at Hobart High School with medical conditions will be supported to ensure they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- We will make 'reasonable adjustments' to accommodate pupils with medical needs as necessary.
- Governors will ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governors will ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers so that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

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. Further details regarding these arrangements will include:

- The Assistant Headteacher Safeguarding & KS3 Guidance will have overall responsibility for arrangements made and monitoring of them, with support of the guidance team
- A variety of arrangements to deliver education for those who cannot attend school due to health needs, and the approach will be adapted depending on individual circumstances. Means of providing learning may include; sending physical resources home eg workbooks, paper resource such as

worksheets etc, signposting online remote learning provisions, liaising with agencies such as the medical needs team and any tutors assigned.

- Communications from the school will explore the most appropriate learning provision for the young person.
- Careful consideration will be given to the reintegration of the child back into school. Meetings will be held as appropriate to support reintegration and a key worker will be assigned where it is appropriate to do so.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Norfolk County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The Norfolk County Council guidance states:

Local authorities also have key responsibilities in championing the needs of these children and young people, and in providing education to children and young people where they are unable to attend school due to ill health.

Norfolk County Council is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education otherwise. This duty applies to all children and young people who live in the county of Norfolk, regardless of the type or location of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the school roll. The law does not define fulltime education, but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. Norfolk County Council's medical needs provision is commissioned via the Short Stay School for Norfolk [SSSFN].

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 the Head of School. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and documents:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Norfolk County Council Medical Needs guidance
- DfE guidance 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school'