



# **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 students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, 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 is 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

Following health-related school absence of 15 days or more (consecutive or cumulative) the school will consider whether a Healthcare Plan (HCP) is appropriate. Full details of this process can be found in the 'Supporting students with medical conditions' policy on the college website.

If yes, the HCP will be completed by an appropriate member of college staff, the student and their parents. If the needs identified and planned support is adequate, the student should return to mainstream school. If the student is unable to return to school, and will need a reduced timetable (20 hours or less per week of mainstream education) then an Individual Alternative Education Plan (IAEP) should be agreed between the college and parents and the local authority made aware of the arrangements and the proposed timescales for the student to return to full time mainstream education. The IAEP should be reviewed regularly, in line with the local authority's 'Best Practice Guidance'.

If further support for the family or student is required, an Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be completed by the school.

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 the HCP and IAEP process and documented through HCP and IAEP documents. These will be shared with local authority and the members of the team as appropriate.

## 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

When it is deemed appropriate by medical and educational professionals, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Although individual situations will vary and flexibility can be expected, the likely arrangements may include an appropriate alternative education provider being commissioned by the college (in conjunction with the Local Authority's AP Directory) or work being sent home and marked (as per Local Authority guidance). 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 IAEF review meetings 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 IAEF review meetings. 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 IAEF review 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 during the initial IAEF cycle.

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 the Assistant Head with responsibility for Alternative Provision. At every review, it will be approved by the School Advisory Body.

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

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

- SEN
- Safeguarding and Child Protection