

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy – Under Review

Date established by governing body

Summer Term 2026

Date for full implementation

Immediately

Date for review

Summer Term 2027

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 the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by Northumberland Local Authority.

Responsibilities

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.

The teacher will be responsible along with the Phase Lead for making and monitoring these arrangements.

Arrangements made could include; remote learning, sending work home, resources to support EHCP targets, resources to support communication, equipment to support physical need and regulation, multi-agency working, for eg. with CYPS and Childrens Services.

Parents and pupils (where appropriate) will be involved and consulted about these arrangements.

A package of support both at home and in school will be made available to reintegrate pupils back into school after a period of absence.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Northumberland County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

EOTAS is the name given to education provision which is not at school. Alternative education is provided by the local authority for pupils who are unable to attend school for health and medical reasons.

The EOTAS Health Needs team provides for learners who are of statutory school age but who are unable to attend school full time due to health and medical needs. Tuition is provided on a one to one basis or in small groups depending on the needs of each individual pupil. Pupils can still attend school part-time and receive EOTAS tuition, or have their full time education provided by the team of teachers.

Medical needs: referrals are usually made by Education Welfare Officers or School Attendance Lead with confirmation in writing from a medical professional (usually a consultant rather than a GP) that the learner is unable to attend school because of their medical condition.

Mental health needs: referrals are usually made by Education Welfare Officers or School Attendance Lead with

confirmation in writing from a mental health professional that the learner is unable to attend school because of their mental health condition.

The quality of education provision for pupils who attend alternative education providers on the Council's procurement framework is monitored through the Education Welfare Team. The service is delivered with the Children's Commissioning Team.

A Lead Education Welfare Officer has responsibility for monitoring the attendance of pupils engaged in alternative provision to ensure that they are effectively safeguarded and receive their entitlement to a full time suitable education.

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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Head teacher with responsibility for attendance. At every annual review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy
- Cleaswell Hill School Strategic Approach to Attendance
- Working Together to improve School attendance (DfE September 2022)
- Summary table of responsibilities for school attendance (DfE September 2022)

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Date: Summer 2026 – Under Review