

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Fairisle Junior School



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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs

Children, 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.

3. The responsibilities of the school

The Local Authority places the responsibility on schools as below:

It is the responsibility of the school to continue to provide education for a pupil who can access school with adjustments even if these are significant adjustments (often determined through an IHP or EHCP process). Support in the home is only provided due to the medical

needs of the child and cannot be due to school not making appropriate adjustments to keep a child in school, if they could be there with the appropriate adjustments. If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will effectively need to be signed off school by a medical professional. There are actually no official 'sick notes' or 'fit notes' for children from medical professionals; however, a referral accepted by Southampton City Council Inclusion Service, where a medical professional has confirmed a child or young person is medically unable to attend school even with adjustments, is effectively this.

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.

The Assistant Headteacher (Welfare and Inclusion) is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

Arrangements will be dependent on the needs of the individual child and the logistical arrangements required, but may include remote learning, sending work home, requesting the support of hospital schools etc.

Parents and children will be consulted about these arrangements.

A transition plan to reintegrate a child (either written or agreed verbally) will be in place to support.

3.2 If the Local Authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Southampton City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Local authority guidance states:

A referral to Southampton City Council Inclusion Service (SCCIS) is made when a pupil is medically unable to attend school and this is likely to be for at least 15 days or more (e.g. surgical recovery). The referral form is generally completed by a NHS paediatric consultant (or consultant practitioner or psychiatrist) or the child or young person's specialist NHS team in conjunction with the medical lead within the home school. The referrer is asked to provide detailed information about the pupil, including:

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 children

Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required

Help make sure that the provision offered to the child 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible

- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or remote learning)
- 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 Headteacher (Welfare and Inclusion). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

July 2023