



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Policy Number 38

Document Management Information

Applicable to:	All staff
Dissemination:	From SI Team to Principals
Linked policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility statement and School Accessibility plan • 48 - Supporting pupils with medical conditions • Special educational needs information report and policy
Implementation:	Principals
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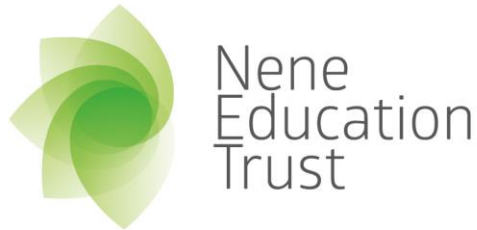
Revision History

Document version	Description of Revision	Date Approved
V1	First version	September 2022
V2	Review and minor updating	June 2023



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As a proprietor of one or more academies, the Nene Education Trust has a legal duty to make arrangements for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The board of the Nene Education Trust has delegated this responsibility to the academy.

The academy has adopted this policy to set out the arrangements it has put in place for its pupils with health needs who cannot attend school. The policy meets the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority, North Northamptonshire [policy-for-pupils-with-medical-needs West 15 02 2021 \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Account is also taken of the following documentation:

Department for Education (2014, update 2017) Supporting children at school with medical conditions [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Department for Education (2013) Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (Statutory guidance for Local Authorities) [Additional health needs guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Department of Education (2013) Alternative provision (Statutory guidance for Local Authorities) [Additional health needs guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

1. Aims

1.1 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

2. The responsibilities of the school

2.1 The person with overall responsibility for the successful administering and implementation of this policy is the Principal.

2.2 Each academy provides support for pupils with medical needs under our statutory duties as defined in 'Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school' (DfE, 2014). However, when a pupil's medical condition becomes too complex or the risks are too great to manage in school this policy then applies.

2.3 We will look to recognise issues or barriers which may require alternative provision as early as possible through a thorough assessment of the pupil's needs. If alternative provision is required, the responsibility remains with the commissioner, which will either be the school or North Northamptonshire Council. If the school is the commissioner of the alternative provision then we will:

- Prepare a personalised intervention plan with clear objectives for improvement and attainment, expected outcomes, a timeline for the intervention and how it will be monitored.
- Agree how to assess when the pupil is ready to return to school for reintegration and agree what the package of support to assist reintegration will be.

- Set out objectives and plans in writing and monitor these regularly.
 - Where the pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan, outcomes and provision from this will be used as part of the intervention plan.
- 2.4 Within Northamptonshire, the responsibility for educational provision for pupils with additional health needs which cannot be met in a school setting has been delegated to Hospital and Outreach Education (HOE) which is a Pupil Referral Unit. If we, as a school, are the commissioner, we will decide whether to commission HOE or provide our own educational support, with potential advice from HOE. This will be dependent on each individual case and, the recommendations of all of the professionals supporting the pupil, will be taken into account.
- 2.5 We will ensure close liaison with the Education, Inclusion Partnership Team (EIP) where a pupil is unable to attend school due to health needs or a medical intervention requiring long term absence is planned. If we feel we are unable to support the pupil as a school, we will make a referral to this team.
- 2.6 If the pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan, we will work with the EHC Team who has responsibility for the pupil in the same way.

3 If the school makes arrangements

- 3.1 Where a pupil cannot attend school because of health needs, unless it is evident at the outset that the pupil will be absent for 15 or more days, the school will initially follow the usual process around attendance and mark the pupil as ill for the purposes of the register.
- 3.2 The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period shorter than 15 days. This may include providing pupils with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- 3.3 The Principal, in partnership with the SENDCo, will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- 3.4 Support may be given through sending learning home, providing online teaching or through Hospital and Outreach Education. Further arrangements will also be considered on an individual basis according to the needs of the pupil.
- 3.5 Both the pupil and parents/ carers will be involved in the arrangements made, with advice also being sought from the professional team supporting the pupil.
- 3.6 Our aim, will be for the pupil to be able to reintegrate back into school when they are well enough. When arrangements are made, the intervention plan will indicate the timeline for when this is expected to happen. A reintegration plan will be made in conjunction with the pupil, parents/ carer and the supporting professionals.
- 3.7 For any absence exceeding 15 days due to health needs or if we feel we are not able to provide suitable education, a referral will be made to the EIP Team - [Educational Inclusion & Partnership Team \(EIP\) - Children, families and education \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](http://northamptonshire.gov.uk)

4 If the local authority makes arrangements

In accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance¹, where a pupil is unable to attend school for more than 15 days due to illness:

- (i) the local authority should be ready to take responsibility for arranging suitable full-time education for that pupil; and
- (ii) the local authority should arrange for this provision to be in place as soon as it is clear that the absence will last for more than 15 days.

The school will inform and work collaboratively with the local authority to support these responsibilities.

- 4.1 If we can't make suitable arrangements, North Northamptonshire Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for pupils unable to attend school due to health needs. They will oversee suitable, equivalent full-time education (or as much education as the pupil's health condition allows) for pupils of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.
- 4.2 In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, we will:
 - Work collaboratively and constructively with the pupil, parents/ carers, local authority, providers and relevant agencies to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
 - Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
 - Help to make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the pupil can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- 4.3 When reintegration is anticipated, we will work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, as far as possible, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or links to lessons in school)
 - Create, in partnership with the professionals supporting the pupil, individually tailored reintegration plans for their return to school
 - Consider and implement any reasonable adjustments that need to be made

5 Complaints

Complaints regarding this policy or the support provided to pupils with health needs who cannot attend school should be discussed directly with the Principal in the first instance. If they cannot resolve the matter, they will direct parents/ carers to the school's complaints procedure.

¹ *Ensuring a good education for pupils who cannot attend school because of health needs (January 2013)*