



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

January 2025

Approved by:	Nina Burton (DSL)	Date: 1 st September 2023
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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](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-system/access-to-education-for-children-with-health-needs>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

3. Responsibilities of the school

Pupils with medical needs may receive education provision in a range of settings. Most children with medical needs will have their needs met within their school environment, through provision ordinarily available in school. On rare occasions where children are so unwell they cannot attend school they may be educated whilst in hospital, at home or an alternative provision setting. A pupil may require intermittent support and require a flexible approach to meet needs.

The school works closely with the Local Authority and other partners such as Health in order to support the education of children with Medical Needs.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-system/access-to-education-for-children-with-health-needs>

And in the Cambridgeshire Medical Needs Policy which is on our school website.

2. Key Information

Taken from: Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of independent schools in England December 2017

Advice on the role of parents:

Parents should provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs. They may in some cases be the first to notify the school that their child has a medical condition. Parents are key partners and should be involved in the development and review of their child's individual healthcare plan and may be involved in its drafting. They should carry out any action they have agreed to as part of its implementation, e.g. provide medicines and equipment and ensure they or another nominated adult are contactable at all times.

Advice on the role of governing bodies:

Governing bodies should ensure that pupils with medical conditions are supported to enable the fullest participation possible in all aspects of school life. They should also ensure that any members of school staff who provide support to pupils with medical conditions are able to access information and other teaching support materials as needed.

Advice on the role of pupils:

Pupils with medical conditions will often be best placed to provide information about how their condition affects them. They should be fully involved in discussions about their medical support needs and contribute as much as possible to the development of, and comply with, their individual healthcare plan. Other pupils will often be sensitive to the needs of those with medical conditions.

Advice on the role of the headteacher:

Headteachers should ensure that the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions is implemented and that all staff are aware of the policy. They should also ensure that the policy is reviewed regularly and that the school is aware of the policy. They should also ensure that the policy is reviewed regularly and that the school is aware of the policy.

Advice on the role of school staff:

Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although they should be trained to do so. Although administering medicines is not a

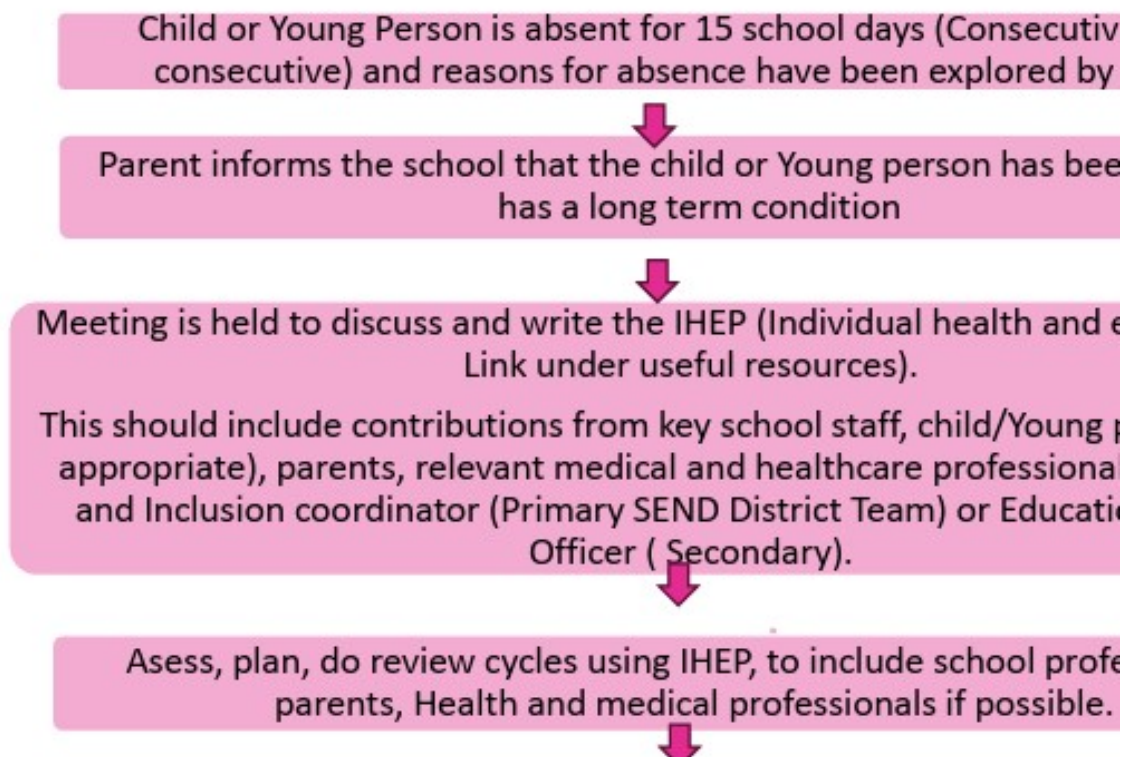
Advice on the role of school nurses:

Every school has access to Universal school nursing services. They are responsible for notifying the school when a child has been identified as having a medical condition which will require support in school. Wherever possible, they should do this before the child starts at the school. They would not usually have an extensive role in ensuring that schools are taking appropriate steps to support children with medical conditions but may support staff on implementing a child's individual healthcare plan and provide advice and liaison, for example on training. School nurses can liaise with lead clinicians locally on appropriate support for the child and associated staff training needs; for example, there are good models of local specialist nursing teams offering training to local school staff, hosted by a local school. Community nursing teams

Advice on the role of other staff:

6. The Cambridgeshire Physical/Mental Health Pathway

Physical and Mental Health Condition Pathway - The Physical and Mental Health Pathway describes the approaches taken and the standards of education required for people with physical and mental health conditions.
(See Flowchart below)



3.1 How 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 Headteacher, Assistant Head and class teacher are responsible for making and monitoring arrangements
- Arrangements could be made e.g. sending work home, or visiting hospital or hospital schools to bring school work or other resources.
- The school will work with parents and pupils about these arrangements
- The school takes a careful, planned and sensitive approach to reintegration working with the pupil and family.

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 pupils.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead. 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
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Attendance Policy