

“Together in Achievement”



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

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Children with Health Conditions who Cannot Attend School Policy

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs; and
- 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 Nottinghamshire Local Authority.

Nottinghamshire policy statement and guidance: [Children absent from school due to illness | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 **If the school makes arrangements**

Initially – and certainly for the first 15 days of health-related absence – the school will attempt to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, but who are able to access education at home or outside of school.

In each Aspire academy, there is a member of the Senior Leadership Team who is identified as accountable for the education and wellbeing of any children with health needs who cannot attend school. This would usually be the headteacher or SENCo.

Our schools will attempt to make bespoke arrangements best suited to the circumstances of the child, which might include the following: sending work home to be completed and returned, providing virtual tutorials over Zoom/Teams or the live streaming of lessons being taught at school.

All arrangements for the provision of education will be made in consultation with the child (if of a suitable age), the parents/carers and the medical team.

The aim, in all cases, is to reintegrate children back into school as soon as they are fit to do so. This will be done in consultation with the child (if of a suitable age), the parents/carers and the medical team. Transition arrangements might include home visits from key staff, part time timetables, supported home lessons.

3.2 **If the Local Authority makes arrangements**

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for children with health conditions who cannot attend school. The suitability of arrangements made for a child with health conditions who cannot attend school are agreed on a case-by-case basis. Decisions by the Local Authority are

made in consultation with the child (if of a suitable age), the parents/carers, the medical team and the school.

All Aspire academies will consider making a referral to the Local Authority when the absence from school has lasted longer than 15 days.

In cases where the Local Authority makes arrangements, Aspire academies will:

- Work constructively with the Local Authority, appointed providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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; and
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Nottinghamshire LA explain their position as follows:

Children absent from school due to illness

Pupils who live in Nottinghamshire and who are temporarily unable to attend school for health-related reasons can receive support from us. Pupils aged five to 16 who are unable to attend school due to medical reasons or severe anxiety for at least 15 days are entitled to support.

Support

Requests for support cannot be made by parents. Instead, they come from the pupil's school or hospital staff and should be supported by a consultant and/or a community paediatrician in the case of physical/medical reasons. Where anxiety is the main cause of school non-attendance the request for support should be supported by the school's educational psychologist and possibly Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

A team of qualified and experienced teachers and teaching assistant work closely with schools to support a suitable education programme for pupils. Teaching sessions may take place in the home but will normally take place in some other suitable venue. Provision is reviewed regularly and staff liaise with school, health professionals and other supporting agencies to plan and support the pupil's return to school.

Contact

For further information about health-related queries, please contact the Health-Related Education Team: 0115 977 2010

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Aspire MAT Board every 3 years.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to – and should be read in conjunction with – the Aspire MAT Medical Conditions Policy.