



# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery School

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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 including mental or physical
- 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.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

This policy reflects the requirements of Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example, where the child can still attend school with some support; where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school.

The Government's policy intention is that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Local authorities (LAs) must carry out their duty to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health. This duty applies to all children and young people who would normally attend mainstream schools, including Academies, Free Schools, independent schools and special schools, or where a child is not on the roll of a

school. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

### **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.

- Niki Stokes, our SENDCO, is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- This would include sending work home and liaising with other health professionals in ensuring that agencies are still supporting the child.
- The SENDCO will consult with families regarding the process for delivering the best suitable education on a regular basis via telephone conversations and virtual meetings.
- Pupils will be reintegrated back into school with a clear care plan shared amongst staff if required and on a phased return in order to build up stamina and re-establish routines. Reintegration will be reviewed weekly in order to increase time in school if successful.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Derbyshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

If the illness is likely to last more than 15 days, the school has a duty to inform the Out Of School Tuition Service (OOST) of the absence and arrangements in place and they will decide if the school's arrangements are suitable.

Telephone: 01629 535295 / Email: [OOST@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:OOST@derbyshire.gov.uk)

The OOST say that – whilst “there will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example, where the child can still attend school with some support; where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school”- that “we recognise the following groups of children as having health needs which may require support from OOST:

- Children who are injured as a result of trauma and need some additional recovery time once discharged from hospital before returning to school
- Children who have undergone significant surgery and require some time to recuperate or avoid possible injury before returning to school.
- Children with chronic illness such as juvenile arthritis, where periods of ill health can make attendance at school impossible
- Children undergoing treatment or recuperation from cancer

- Children with mental health related problems confirmed by a senior health practitioner within specialist services, usually Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Some of the children falling into these groups might also have disability or an Education Health Care Plan. Statutory guidance and policy relating to these additional needs should be consulted alongside this policy” (full policy at: <https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/childrens-support-services/attendance-management/out-of-school-tuition-referral-policy-for-children-with-medical-needs-and-school-age-mothers.docx> )

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 Karen Burton, Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

#### 5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEN and disability policy
- Intimate Care
- Health and safety