



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Review Due:	May 2022
Last Review	May 2021
Applicable to:	Paulton Infant School
Reviewed By:	Ruth Perry
Approved By:	LGB

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Emily Massey

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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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority in the ‘Single Point of Access Panels for Referrals to the Hospital Education & Reintegration Service Guidance and Procedures.’

We work closely with the Norton Radstock Primary Panel to support children in continuing to access education.

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

The school responsibility is to work closely with the child, parents, NR Primary Panel and LEA to support a child to access their education when a medical need is preventing them from attending school. Local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other pupils who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such arrangements being made.

School is responsible for making a SPA referral through the B&A panel, if agreed by the panel, the child would then be able to receive support from HERS (Hospital Education Reintegration Service). This provision is for children who are medically unfit to attend school.

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.

Our school SENCO with the support of our headteacher is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements in line with the LEA guidance.

The child’s personal situation will be taken in consideration at every step of the way, we will support the child and their family according to their needs and capacity to engage with education depending on individual circumstances.

For short term absence, the child's class teacher will provide work to the parents for the child to complete at home. Regular phone contact can be provided to support the child and parents through this learning if requested by the parents.

For circumstances when children are unable to attend school for longer periods of time due to medical needs, the SENCO and/or head teacher will meet with the parents or discuss how to best support the child in continuing to access their education. Following a discussion with parents a SPA referral can be made to access further support through Norton Radstock Primary Panel Partnership including accessing HERS

Parents will be invited to have a meeting in school or a discussion over the telephone about the arrangements to support their in accessing education whilst they are medically unfit for school.

Reintegration will be bespoke to the child's medical and health needs, length of time out of school and their social and emotional needs. The reintegration will be discussed with parents ahead of the child returning to school, this could include a staggered return, a reduced timetable, 1:1 activities building to whole class teaching and learning. We would encourage families to communicate weekly about progress to ensure a smooth reintegration back into school.

Following HERS placement the Single Point of Access Panels for Referrals to the Hospital Education & Reintegration Service Guidance and Procedures states;

All HERS provision will start from the premise of re-integration to the pupil's registered school/academy provider unless there is medical evidence to the contrary. A reintegration plan will be drawn up at the start of the provision which clearly outlines roles and responsibilities of all parties.

HERS will provide re-integration support when the pupil is medically ready to return to school. This will be provided for a maximum of 6 weeks (or sooner if the pupil is able to attend school without support). The school then takes over responsibility for future reintegration and resumes full responsibility for the pupil's education based on medical advice.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bath and Northeast Somerset will work with the Norton Radstock Primary Panel Partnership and become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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 Ruth Perry. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Complaints
- Equality information and objectives
- First aid
- Health and safety
- Safeguarding
- Special educational needs Local Offer, statement and policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Accessibility plan