

Policy for Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Background

This is a statutory policy as required by the Department of Education (March 2022).

Policy Connections

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Attendance Management pupils, Educational Visits, Equality Policy, Home School Agreement, Regulation and Support, **Remote Education**, SEND, **Safeguarding and Child Protection**, **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions**, Teaching and Learning, Wellbeing.

ABOUT THIS POLICY

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.

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

This policy is governed by the statutory guidance and non-statutory advice set out in the document ‘Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions’ (DfE Dec 2015) and ‘Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs’ (DfE 2013).

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

The Head Teacher and Governing Body will ensure that the arrangements they put in place are sufficient to meet their statutory responsibilities and should ensure that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented.

This aligns with their wider safeguarding duties.

Arrangements made by school

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. School will liaise with parents/carers and offer Blended Learning relating to long term absence of a pupil as follows:

- Learning Map shared with parents/carers at beginning of term.
- Parents/Carers directed to appropriate resources on the Newfield website and Youtube channel to support with home learning
- Class teacher liaises with home and identifies learning focus for when pupil is ready to access activities using resources/activities/suggestions previously sent home.
- Occasional TEAMS meetings may be offered to help support pupils familiarise themselves with staff and peers prior to returning to school. This is at the class teacher’s discretion, taking into account the pupils needs and considering staffing ratios.

- Where it is necessary, and when the pupil is ready to return to school, a multi-disciplinary ‘back to school’ meeting will be arranged prior to their return in order to decide the best course of action.
- Where a pupil has a prolonged absence from school with no return in the foreseeable future, despite best efforts of school and family, the deputy head teacher, along with family wellbeing coordinators, class teacher and the BwD Inclusion attendance team would decide upon what actions are required with family, health and social care.
- School will work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil;
- School will share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required;
- School will help to make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can eventually be reintegrated back into school successfully.

When reintegration is anticipated, school will work with the local authority and the NHS 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 and practical;
- 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 school);
- Create individual reintegration plans for the child returning to school following a Back to School meeting (where this is possible);
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made for the child to return to school;
- Ensure all support and therapy plans are up to date and reflect the pupil’s
- current presentation.

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed annually by DHT, Jenny Riley. At every review, it will be approved by the full Jenny Riley, January 2024

Review date January 2025

(The DfE advises that this policy is reviewed annually, in its list of statutory policies).

Safeguarding

Newfield School is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as its number one priority

Full copies of Policies and Procedures related to all aspects of Safeguarding, and the Complaints Policy, are available on request from Rachel Kay, Head Teacher and Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Equal Opportunities

Newfield School is also committed to ensuring the equality of opportunity in line with the Equality Act and seek to show this through all aspects of school life and in particular through our commitment to every child fulfilling their potential, our work in the classroom, our recruitment and retention of staff and our work in the local and wider community.