



KINGSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Children with Health Needs who cannot attend 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
- 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 and the Equality Act 2010.

The Government's intention behind this policy is that all children setting receive a good education. Alternative provision may be needed to achieve this, and it should address a pupil's individual needs whether they be health related, behavioural related, or otherwise. This should also include social and emotional needs, for example ensuring that pupils feel fully part of their school community, are able to stay in contact with classmates, and have access to the opportunities enjoyed by their peers. It should enable a pupil to maintain academic progression and attainment; and allow them to thrive and prosper in the education system.

This support framework should work cohesively across organisational boundaries and include a structured understanding and assessment of the needs of a pupil, and appropriate referral and re-integration that focuses on the pupil's interest and appropriate outcomes rather than processes. Local authorities, schools, providers, relevant agencies, and parents should work together constructively to ensure the best outcomes for a pupil.

Every child should have the best possible start in life through a high-quality education, which allows them to achieve their full potential. A child who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peer group, including a broad and balanced curriculum. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status. The use of electronic media – such as 'virtual classrooms', learning platforms and so on – can provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child's health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).

Kingsmoor School will support the education of children with health needs by sharing information between schools, health services and LAs this is important to make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

Some complex and/or long-term health issues may be considered disabilities under equality legislation. This legislation provides that Kingsmoor School and the LA must not discriminate against disabled children and are under a duty to eliminate discrimination, foster equality of opportunity for disabled children and foster good relations between disabled and non-disabled children.

3. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, Kingsmoor Primary school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The Head teacher, Mrs Joanne Warren, will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- A meeting will be made with parents / carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital.
- A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by school and parents / carers.
- The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. Arrangements could include sending work home, virtual lessons or attending a hospital school. All work will be prepared by class teachers.
- The pupil will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the pupil may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

When Kingsmoor Primary School can't make suitable arrangements, Somerset County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. When identified that alternative provision is required, the LA should ensure that it is arranged as quickly as possible and that it appropriately meets the needs of the child.

Somerset Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that pupils with health needs are not at home or in hospital for more than 15 working days without access to education: this may be consecutive or cumulative with the same medical condition. Effective liaison with medical professionals will ensure that there is a minimum of delay in starting appropriate support.

Number of hours of education

In cases where Somerset Local Authority has become involved the Local Authority will arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education. The Local Authority will need to ensure that the education children receive is of a good quality, as required by the DFE statutory guidance on *Alternative Provision* (2013).

Named officer

Somerset Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that there is a named senior officer with responsibility for the provision of education for children and young people who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.

Objectives of the appropriate provider

Educational provision for pupils, who are physically ill, injured or who have clinically defined mental health problems is the responsibility of all schools and education services. Where the Local

Authority has become involved particular provision is made through the Panel for Excluded and Vulnerable Pupils (PEVP) via a referral from the school. Children with an appropriate referral with evidence from a medical professional will be provided with education by the area Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

The aim of this provision is to:

1. Minimise disruption to learning
2. In consultation with parents/carers, medical professionals deliver an appropriate and personalised education and
3. Successfully reintegrate (where reintegration is an objective) pupils back into school at the earliest opportunity when they are well enough to return.

In the case of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan who normally attends specialist provision, education will normally be provided by their current education provider. In cases where there the Local Authority is concerned about the suitability of the education being provided for a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan, the child or young person's provision will be considered and agreed by the Special Educational Needs Statutory Panel.

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. This may have to include extra support to help fill any gaps arising from the child's absence; involvement from a the school nurse; other ways to complement the education a child receives if they cannot attend school full-time but are well enough to have education in other ways.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made (under the equalities legislation).

A child unable to attend school because of health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the child's education.

Kingsmoor school would submit applications for special arrangements to awarding bodies as early as possible for children with permanent or long term disabilities or learning difficulties, and with temporary disabilities, illness and indispositions, when they are taking public examinations.

4. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be monitored in school by the Headteacher. A Headteacher update will be presented to the Education governor's annually and summarised in the Headteacher's report annually.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Chair of the Education committee, Rachel Chorley.

5. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Equality Policy
- Remote learning policy
- Curriculum policy
- SEND policy
- Somerset local authority policy for the education of children and young people unable to attend school because of health needs

6. LINKS TO OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision>

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/schools-colleges-childrens-services/school-behaviour-attendance>