

Amble Links First School
Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school



Date Written: October 2023
By: Paul Heeley
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Date for Review: November 2024

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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. Local Authority Guidance can be found [HERE](#).

3. Responsibilities of the 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.

- The child's class teacher will be in the initial point of contact with parents to establish the estimated time period that the child will be absent and to establish what education the child can reasonably be expected to complete based on their individual circumstances.
- The headteacher will be responsible for monitoring these arrangements
- Depending on individual circumstances, arrangements could involve: sending work home, providing remote learning, home visits, providing access to online learning programs, liaising with hospital schools etc
- The headteacher and class teacher will liaise with parents either by telephone, email or face to face to ensure that arrangements are appropriate and agreeable to the needs of the child and their family.
- The headteacher and class teacher would also liaise with parents to support transition back into school after a period of prolonged absence. This could take the form of a phased return and involve additional support from school staff.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Northumberland County Council's Education Other Than At School Service (EOTAS) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

- EOTAS would generally be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illnesses will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days either in one absence or over the course of a school year.
- The school would make a referral to access this service by contacting the service manager – (See link above)

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 the 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

A COPY OF THIS POLICY IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT ON REQUEST