

COPPICE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL 2024

Document History

Created / revised & approved by staff	March 2023
Reviewed	March 2024
Ratified by governing body	April 2024
Next review date	March 2025

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. The responsibilities of the school	2
4. Monitoring arrangements.....	3
5. Links to other policies	4

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 is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority: <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/medical-education-service>

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

Schools have a statutory duty to make the necessary arrangements to provide ongoing education for children who, due to their medical condition, are unable to attend school for a period of time.

Schools are responsible for making reasonable adjustments so children can access education.

Schools are responsible for making a request to the Medical Education Service if a child has 15 days of absence, consecutive or accumulative, due to a medical need and school are unable to offer an education the pupil can access.

Schools are responsible for keeping in contact with the child and their parents/carers even though they may not be attending school. The child remains on the role of the school and therefore it is crucial they continue to feel a part of the school even though they may not be on site. The Medical Education Service (MES) can advise school on how best to achieve this.

If the Medical Education Service (MES) does become involved regular review meetings will be held between school, health, MES and parents/carers. It will be the responsibility of the school to organise these meetings.

If the Medical Education Service (MES) does become involved schools will be responsible for providing the resources needed to the MES so the child can be taught Maths and or English as if they were in school full-time. Resources may include text books, set texts, exercise books and any other resources the child needs to engage in the education.

Schools are responsible for ensuring the child has the appropriate resources to be able to engage in the offer of education made by school and or the MES and this may include a laptop, tablet, access to the schools online platform or any other resources needed.

Schools need to ensure they have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) in place for all children with medical needs and this needs to be completed alongside health and parents/carers.

If the Medical Education Service (MES) does become involved the school continues to maintain a safeguarding responsibility for the child. If they do not attend the offer of education made by the MES and the school it is fundamental that school visits the child at home as part of the wellbeing check. The MES will inform the schools safeguarding lead of any concerns. It is recommended that school is in regular contact with the child's family.

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 Headteacher is responsible for ensuring pupils with health needs who cannot attend school are provided with a suitable education.
- The Headteacher will work with class teachers and the SENDCo to set up remote learning using Microsoft Teams so children can join live lessons or watch recorded lessons at a later time. Work will be set via Teams and email. School staff will provide feedback on work and communicate with parents via email or telephone.
- Parents will be consulted about the proposed arrangements to ensure the plan is workable for all. Regular feedback will be sought by the school on the effectiveness of the programme.
- When pupils are ready to return to school, the Headteacher will arrange a meeting with parents and the pupil to discuss the best ways to reintegrate into school life. This may include an alternate timetable for a limited period of time.

3.2 If the local authority becomes involved

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, NYCC will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required

- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head teacher. 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
- Safeguarding Policy