



**Holme C of E Primary Academy
Children with health needs who cannot attend
school Policy**

Date agreed: September 2023

Review date: September 2024 or earlier if appropriate

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

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority and DEMAT Academy Trust.

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

The responsibilities of the school

Holme Church of England Primary Academy conforms to the following Local Authority guidance (pg 9, point 20-23) in regards to supporting children with health needs who cannot attend school:

20. The LA and/or the provider delivering the education should consult parents before teaching begins. Parents have an important role to play, whether their child is at home or in hospital. Parents and carers can provide useful information that can inform the teaching approach. In the case of a looked after child, the LA is responsible for safeguarding the child's welfare and education. Both the LA and primary carers (foster carers or residential social workers) would fulfil the parental role here and should be engaged. Children should also be involved in decisions from the start, with the ways in which they are engaged reflecting their age and maturity. This will help ensure that the right provision is offered and encourage the child's commitment to it.

21. In all cases, effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) is essential to delivering effective education for children with additional health needs. Service level agreements and/or multi-agency forums may aid this process. This applies whether the child is in hospital or at home. When a child is in hospital, liaison between hospital teaching staff, the LA's alternative provision/home tuition service and the child's school can ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum. It can ensure that the school can make information available

about the curriculum and work the child may miss, helping the child to keep up, rather than having to catch up.

23. A child unable to attend school because of health needs must 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. Continuity is important for children and knowing that they can return to their familiar surroundings and school friends can help their recovery and their educational progress.

Please refer to the DfE document "Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs", a link to this document can be accessed here - [DfE guidance](#) .

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. This will take different forms including sending work packs home, liaising with colleagues from hospital schools or alternative provisions, outreach visits by school staff. Parent/carers will be an integral part of these arrangements and the school will work in collaboration with the parents to ensure that the learning needs of the child are provided for. When the child is ready to return to school a re-integration meeting will be arranged between parent/carers and the school to ensure a positive transition back to school for the child.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Cambridgeshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for children with health needs who can't attend school, as detailed on the Cambridgeshire Local Authority website

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-system/access-to-education-for-children-with-health-needs>

The responsibility passes to the Local Authority when:

"it is clear that a child will be absent for more than 15 days, this can either be consecutive days or a total of days over a period of time, the local authority must make sure that suitable education is provided. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever the type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in academies, free schools,

special schools and independent schools as well as those in maintained schools”

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

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Rachael Weeks (SENDCo).

At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility/Medical Needs Policy
- DFE document “Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs”,