Thomas Willingale School and Nursery

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Last reviewed on:	Spring 2027
Next review due by:	Spring 2028

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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.

It based on the following DFE Guidance from 2013: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needswho-cannot-attend-school and is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to their medical needs, the school must be able to demonstrate that they have sought and followed advice from all relevant agencies, for example, if needed, Health, EP service, Inclusion Partner, Essex County Council Attendance Team and their SEND Quadrant team. The SENCo may be consulted for their advice on how best to manage the pupil's needs, if the child has Special Educational Needs. This must be evidenced, where appropriate, using the One Planning process. **All mental health requests must have oversight from the school SENCo and Senior Leadership Team.**

Schools would be expected to refer to the tool kit for schools that is available on the Essex Schools Infolink to assist with identifying how best to support pupils.

The school, in discussion with health care professionals, may wish to prepare an individual health care plan to evidence how the pupil's health needs can be managed in school – this should be shared with parents and the pupil where appropriate.

The school will be expected to demonstrate that they have made all reasonable adjustments and followed any advice recommended by the services supporting the pupil. A referral for support from Education Access will then be considered. Any advice or guidance issued to the school and the school's response should form part of the referral - this can be demonstrated using One Plan documentation or Health Plan depending on need.

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 persons in school responsible for making and monitoring arrangements are the Inclusion Manager and Family-School Co-ordinator.

The arrangements made will be made in line with the needs of the pupil. This can include, sending work home via our on-line learning platform or supporting the hospital teaching team with relevant planning.

The Inclusion Manager and/or Family-School Co-ordinator will meet with parents to plan these arrangements together.

School and family will work together to support the reintegration back into school for the pupil. This will involve a clear transition which will be planned with the parents and pupil.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Essex County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. This would involve a referral to the Education Access Team.

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 Inclusion Manager and the Family-School Co-ordinator. 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
- SEND policy
- Attendance Policy