



Better Together
LEARNING TRUST

BETTER TOGETHER LEARNING TRUST

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

STATUTORY POLICY

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Glossary

The term '**School**' is used as standard to mean the educational establishment that is adopting this policy.

The term '**Headteacher**' is used to refer to the person with overall day-to-day responsibility of the **School**.

Directors are the Trustees of the Board.

LGB is the Local Governing Body.

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, 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 Northamptonshire County Council, entitled Ensuring a Good Education for Children who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Care Needs (March 2019).

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

The responsibilities of the school

All schools within Better Together Learning Trust take their responsibilities towards their students seriously and follow the good practice derived from 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot school because of health needs' (DfE 2013)

Initially, the school will attempt to plan to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The class teacher will provide work packs and provide opportunities for remote learning. This will be overseen by the Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning.

Families have a key role to play in the education of their child and can provide key information to ensure the teaching is successful and so as soon as a concern that education is / may be disrupted a meeting will be convened so that support and arrangements can be planned to ensure any disruption to learning is minimised. In the case of children who are looked after, the local authority and primary caregivers will fulfil this role. Children themselves will be involved in the decision-making process, appropriate to age and maturity.

The school will liaise with families to plan the return to school which, for example, may include a phased return to build stamina for the school day.

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Northants Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Within Northamptonshire, the named NCC officer with responsibility for the education of children with additional health needs is Nicola Jones.

The responsibility for the education provision for children with additional health needs that cannot be met in a school setting has been delegated to the Hospital and Outreach Education (HOE). HOE and the referring school will decide how best to support the child, this could be via HOE or by the school with additional support and advice. HOE may provide appropriate education or may provide advice to the school on the best way to support any student with additional health needs, once requested by the school, and as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more or is too unwell to access education at school. The 15 days can be consecutive or cumulative within a 12-month period. HOE will retain good links with schools and ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities so that children can be reintegrated back into school as quickly and smoothly as possible. Schools will be expected to maintain contact with the student and their families through emails, letters, newsletters and invite to school events etc.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the student 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