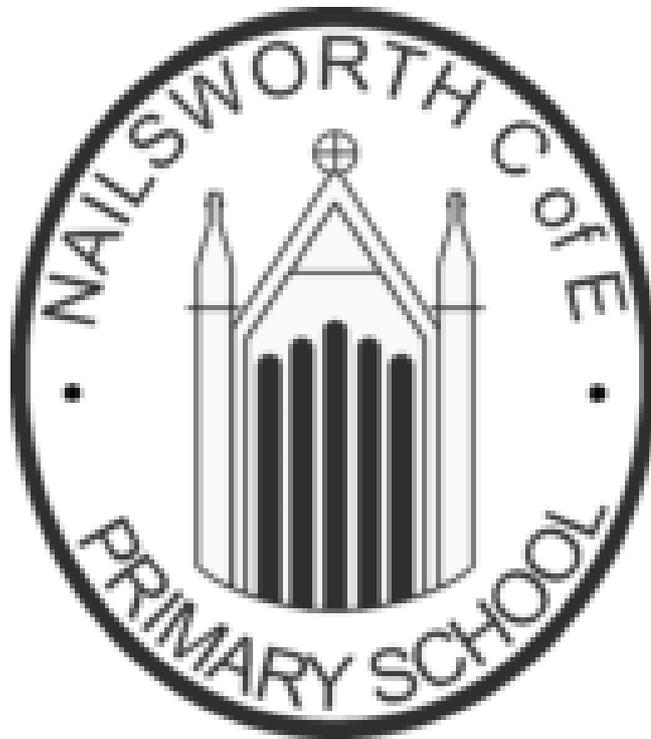


Policy Statement for

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School



Policies to refer to and cross reference: Children with Medical Needs, First Aid and Medication, SEND Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Complaints Policy

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1. Introduction

1.1 This policy sets out how Nailsworth Primary School will comply with its statutory duty to arrange suitable full-time (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

1.2 This statutory duty applies to all children and young people of compulsory school age, who would normally attend Nailsworth Primary School.

2 Aim of the policy

2.1 Nailsworth Primary School is an inclusive community that provides all pupils the same opportunities at school. We will help to ensure they can:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing once they leave school.

Our intention is that all children, regardless of circumstances or education setting, should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should

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receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil’s education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education and meet the child’s individual needs, including social and emotional needs and enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system.

2.2 The provision for children who are medically unfit to attend school will ensure that:

- Pupils make good progress in their education and do not fall behind their peers, particularly in key subjects.
- Disruption to learning is minimised and there is a continuity of education provision within the school curriculum.
- Pupils are able to obtain qualifications as appropriate to their age and abilities.
- Pupils are able to reintegrate successfully back into school and that this takes place as soon as their health permits.
- Pupils feel fully part of their school community and are able to stay in contact with classmates.

3 Legislation and Guidance

3.1 Key legislation covering the duties and powers relating to this policy:

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, as amended by section 3a of the Children, Schools and Families Act 2014;

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/pdfs/ukpga_20140006_en.pdf
- Equality Act 2010: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/pdfs/ukpga_20100015_en.pdf
Some complex and/or long-term health issues may be considered disabilities under equality legislation. This legislation provides that academy trusts must not discriminate against disabled children and are under a duty to eliminate discrimination, foster equality of opportunity for disabled children and foster good relations between disabled and non-disabled children. LAs and academy trusts should make reasonable adjustments to alleviate disadvantage faced by disabled children, and plan to increase disabled children’s access to premises and the curriculum.

3.2 Local authorities must have regard to statutory guidance when carrying out their Section 19 duty. The relevant guidance is: ***“Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs”***:

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

This policy has been developed with regard to this guidance.

4 Identification of children who need provision

4.1 This policy applies to all children and young people who:

- Have an illness which will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged.
- Have a health need and their absence has been validated as necessary by a medical professional, either a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from CAMHS.
- Health problems can include physical illnesses, injuries and clinically defined mental health problems certified by medical evidence, such as that provided by a medical consultant. From CAMHS consultants, the evidence would be in the form of letter and copy of care plan/Care Programme Approach Plan.

5 Referral and Intervention

5.1 Nailsworth Primary School will liaise closely with the LA support teams to ensure pupils who are not able to attend school due to health needs to engage alternative provision where available. Where alternative provision, such as hospital schools or home tutoring service, is not available provision will be put in place to ensure the pupil has support in their home.

If a child has complex long term health issues and the pattern of illness may be unpredictable, regular liaison between the school, medical professionals and Gloucester Hospital Education Service (GHES) will enable appropriate provision to be made.

5.2 Children and young people on a school roll, with a diagnosed medical need that does not require in patient or day patient hospitalisation, are generally referred by the home school to GHES as the alternative provider. It is the responsibility of the home school to collate the necessary evidence for the referral to the Outreach Teaching Service.

5.3 Circumstances that may trigger requests for the Outreach Teaching Service involvement or support include children and young people with the following needs:

- Those with medical / mental health needs who are or will be absent for more than 15 working days (consecutive or cumulative absence due to the same illness) and who are declared medically unfit, by a consultant clinician, to attend their usual place of learning in spite of support offered by an 'Individual Health Care Plan.'

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- Pupils who are re-integrating into school after a period of illness or injury, in accordance with the terms agreed at initial and on-going reviews

5.4 The education provision will be full time, unless this is not in the best interests of the child or where staffing or funding is prohibitive. Children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the value of education they would receive in school. If they receive one to one tuition, for example, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated. The education will be tailored to the child's age, aptitude and ability and any other individual need (for example, health, social and emotional needs, special educational needs or disability).

5.5 Children and young people who are registered at Nailsworth Primary School remain on roll at their home school. Although such pupils are taught by the alternative provision, at all times, they remain the responsibility of the home school and should be recorded on their home school's annual census return.

5.6 The child's progress within alternative provision will be reviewed by their school, in consultation with the parent / carer, the home school and other relevant services. It should be recognised that a child's educational needs and ability to access education may change depending on their health and that the programme may need to be flexible to accommodate this.

6 Working in Partnership and Reintegration into the School Community

6.1 Schools and alternative providers should collaborate with parents/carers, the local authority and all relevant health services to ensure the delivery of effective education for children with additional health needs.

6.2 Parents and carers have a key role to play in their child's education and are to be involved in planning and on-going review. In the case of a looked after child, GHES and primary carers will fulfil this role. Children should also be involved in decisions to ensure they are engaged as much as possible in this process.

6.3 Relevant services including Special Educational Needs (SEN), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Education Inclusion/Attendance/ Improvement Services, educational psychologists and school nurses all have responsibilities to work together to support children who are unable to attend school due to a medical condition.

6.4 Whilst a pupil is away from Nailsworth Primary School, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods:

- School newsletters
- Cards or letters from peers and staff.

6.5 Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

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6.6 Nailsworth Primary School will make arrangements to reintegrate pupils at the earliest opportunity and as soon as they are well enough. Each child will have an individually tailored reintegration plan. As per Equalities legislation, Nailsworth Primary School will consider whether they need to make any reasonable adjustments to provide suitable access for the child as part of their reintegration.

6.7 To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member
- Access to additional support in school
- Online access to the curriculum from home
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms
- Places to rest at school
- Special arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

6.8 When a pupil is considered well enough to return to Nailsworth Primary School, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA. For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.

6.9 Nailsworth Primary School is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

6.10 The reintegration plan will include:

- The date for planned reintegration, once known.
- Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
- Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil.
- Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.
- Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.
- A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.
- Follow up procedures.

6.11 Nailsworth Primary School will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

6.12 Staff will be trained in a timely manner to assist with a pupil's return to school in consultation with healthcare professionals to ensure that staff are confident in their ability to support pupils with additional health needs.

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7 Information Sharing and Record Keeping

- 7.1 It is essential that all information about pupils with health needs is kept up-to-date. To protect confidentiality, all information-sharing techniques, e.g. staff noticeboards, will be agreed with the pupil and their parent in advance of being used.
- 7.2 All teachers, TAs, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures,.
- 7.3 Parents will be made aware of their own rights and responsibilities regarding confidentiality and information sharing. To help achieve this, Nailsworth Primary School will:
- Ensure this policy and other relevant policies are easily available and accessible.
 - Ask parents to sign a consent form which clearly details the organisations and individuals that their child's health information will be shared with and which methods of sharing will be used.
 - Consider how friendship groups and peers may be able to assist pupils with health needs.
- 7.4 When a pupil is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, the school will ensure the appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to the school. The named member of staff will liaise with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.
- 7.5 In accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy, written records will be kept of all medicines administered to pupils.

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