

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 based on and contains sections of guidance provided by our local authority. Their policy can be found here <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/a1xpzhzs/supporting-children-who-are-unable-to-attend-school-because-of-medical-or-health-needs-policy-draft-1-210524.pdf>

Cornwall Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Cornwall can access a suitable education in order to maximise their learning opportunities. Education should be inclusive and meet specific needs. The Community Hospital Education Service (CHES) is commissioned by Cornwall Council to provide education for pupils unable to attend school due to health (including mental health) or medical needs.

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

The responsibilities of the school

- Schools are required by law to make arrangements to support any pupil with a health / medical condition. This duty is detailed in Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and in the Department for Education's Statutory Guidance Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

The guidance also applies to

- activities taking place off-site as part of normal educational activities.
- Schools should also be mindful of the non-statutory guidance Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools November 2018.
- Pupils at school with health / medical conditions should be properly supported with an appropriate Health Care Plan so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Agencies that can support schools in writing the Health Care Plan include school nurses, PMNAS and Sensory Support Service. A template for completing same can be found in [Statutory Guidance for schools - supporting pupils at school with medical or health conditions document](#).

If the school makes arrangements

Initially, (in the first two weeks of absence) the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The SENCO will be responsible for ensuring these arrangements are put in place and monitoring them over the two weeks and will also liaise with parents/carers and the child to ensure the arrangements are suitable, appropriate and accessible dependent on the child's situation and condition.

The child's class teacher will be responsible for setting this work, which will (as far as possible) closely follow the learning of the class and be delivered in the most appropriate way e.g., through online learning platforms, such as Oak Academy, TT Rockstars etc or via paper packs if families do not have suitable access to devices/internet. The teacher will also be able to provide feedback through these platforms.

If this is not appropriate, the SENCO may liaise with the hospital school to provide education. The SENCO will liaise with all involved to create a reintegration plan when the child is ready to return to school. This may include a part time timetable or a gradual transition etc, this will vary between cases and meet the needs of the individual child.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Cornwall Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Cornwall Council should provide education as soon as it is clear the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, continuously or cumulatively, and where suitable education is not being provided by the school. Once a council has identified a child needs alternative education, it must arrange this as quickly as possible. If the medical evidence is not quickly available, the guidance states "LAs should consider liaising with other medical professionals, such as the child's GP, and consider looking at other evidence to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child". The statutory guidance 'Alternative Provision' says the duty to provide a suitable education applies "to all children of compulsory school age resident in the local authority area, whether or not they are on the roll of a school, and whatever type of school they attend".

Cornwall Council is responsible for arranging full-time education for children of statutory school age (5 to 16 years) who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This duty applies to all pupils who live in Cornwall, regardless of the type or location of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the roll of a school, for example children who are home educated. These duties are set out in Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

The Equality Act 2010 is also an important part of the legal framework around children and young people with significant medical needs. For the vast majority of children or young people with medical needs, these could be met without the additional intervention of Cornwall Council – for example: -

- where the pupil can still attend school with additional support provided by the school so that he/she may access suitable education provision
- where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the pupil; or
- where arrangements have been made by the school for the pupil to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school.

However, Cornwall Council will continue to maintain an overview of all arrangements for children where they have provision that differs from that received by their peers in mainstream education through the Children Missing out on Education process.

In Cornwall the named person is:

Nick Millward, Senior School Effectiveness Officer, SEND

Email: nick.millward@cornwall.gov.uk

Parents/carers can also contact the Education Welfare Service for advice and guidance or to discuss their child's specific circumstances relating to medical needs provision. Email: educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk Telephone: 01872 323400

It is strongly recommended that schools, parents and carers seek advice from Cornwall Council's Education Welfare Service in instances where there is concern that their child's educational needs are not being met.

Schools can also contact the Education Welfare Service in order to obtain support, advice and guidance in relation to medical needs provision and their own responsibilities in supporting children with health needs, both generally and in relation to specific cases.

An Education Welfare Officer will liaise with professionals within both health and education as appropriate in order to ensure children with health needs are able to access a suitable education. The Education Welfare Service Managers have oversight of this area of responsibility; contacts are as follows:

Frances.Valentine@cornwall.gov.uk

Andrew.Reep@cornwall.gov.uk

If a child has an education, health and care (EHC) plan, contact should be made with the Statutory SEN Service

StatutorySEN@cornwall.gov.uk

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.

Part-time timetable arrangements – to support pupils medical and / or health needs:

Reasonable adjustments should be made to accommodate pupils who would otherwise find it difficult to attend school due to illness or a medical condition. Schools should have regard to the guidance: Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (DfE January 2015) and the associated LA guidance.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/parent-support-and-advice/temporary-part-time-timetables-formally-known-as-a-reduced-timetable/>

Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a pupil due to his/her health / medical needs, part-time education can be provided. This decision will be made with reference to advice from relevant medical professionals and the agreement of parents. When considering a reduced timetable in collaboration with parents/carers, the pupil (as appropriate) and relevant professionals, schools must have regard to and follow Cornwall Council's guidance.

All schools are required to report to Cornwall Council any arrangement for pupils who are not accessing a full timetable in school. This includes pupils that access full-time hours in a combination of schools or alternative providers. This allows Cornwall Council to monitor the suitability of provision for all pupils. Schools do not need to report pupils accessing CHES as these children are known to Cornwall Council and monitored separately.

Parents/carers can access more information on the Cornwall Council website:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/reduced-timetables-part-time-attendance/>

CHES Provision for pupils and schools in Cornwall:

All Cornwall schools can access support from the Community Hospital Education Service (CHES). For the 24/25 Academic Year, the Wave Multi Academy Trust is commissioned by Cornwall Council to provide support for children who are unable to attend school in excess of 15 days, continuously or cumulatively, due to medical / health needs.

The Executive Principal of CHES, in liaison with the Council, schools and professionals, will seek to ensure that Cornwall Council fulfils its statutory duties in relation to medical needs provision for pupils who cannot attend school for medical reasons and therefore require alternative educational provision.

Referrals to CHES:

Schools should make referrals to CHES for pupils unable to attend school due to medical/ health reasons where it is clear that the pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more. In these circumstances parents/carers should seek to provide medical evidence that confirms why their child is unable to attend school; with the medical evidence advising on the likely duration of the absence. Ordinarily medical evidence would be a Medical Consultant or other health professional who has ongoing involvement in a child's care.

However, in order to avoid delays, evidence from a GP can also be accepted if the child is under a consultant but the medical report has not yet been issued. For example, a GP has referred a pupil to CAMHS but he/she has not yet been seen. The consultant evidence would still need to be submitted at a later date to inform the education needs of the child.

Schools are entitled to ask for medical evidence to be provided by the Consultant involved in the care of the pupil, or other medical practitioner, but must also take into account any other evidence and information provided by the parent / carer in order to prevent a delay in arranging suitable educational provision. When making referrals to CHES, schools must submit a copy of the Health Care Plan with the referral. For pupils with EHC plans schools must liaise with the Statutory SEN Service.

Further information on the CHES provision for the 24/25 academic year can be found on its website www.wavemat.org

There is further information about CHES provision, their role, the school's role, health professionals and other agencies roles, along with information about hospital in-patients, children with life limiting and terminal illness, ME, CFS and mental health needs in Cornwall's

policy here: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/a1xpzhzs/supporting-children-who-are-unable-to-attend-school-because-of-medical-or-health-needs-policy-draft-1-210524.pdf>

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by Joanna Waters, SENCO.

Links to other policies

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Intimate Care policy

Person responsible for policy: Mrs J Waters (SENCO)

Policy written: June 2025

To be reviewed: June 2027