



Policy for children with health needs who cannot attend school

Approved by:	Standards Committee	Date: 14/01/2026
Last reviewed:	January 2026	
Next review due by:	January 2027	

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 is also based on the following guidance:

- Education provision for pupils with medical or health needs: [Supporting children who are unable to attend school because of medical and / or health needs - Cornwall Council](#)
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (DfE December 2023) [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- The associated LA policy [Supporting children who are unable to attend school because of medical or health needs policy \(cornwall.gov.uk\)](#)
- And LA guidance [Reduced timetables \(part-time attendance\) - Cornwall Council](#)

3. 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.

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.

For advice and guidance, the school, parents and carers can contact the Education Welfare Service- educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

If a child has an Education, Health and Care plan, contact will be made with the Statutory SEN Service- statutorySEN@cornwall.gov.uk

In our school, the responsible person for making and monitoring these arrangements is Mrs S Swift (SENDCo) or Miss S Luff (Headteacher)

Reduced timetable arrangements

Reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate pupils who would otherwise find it difficult to attend school due to illness or a medical condition. 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, we will have regard to and follow Cornwall Council's guidance for reduced timetables.

Schoolwork being sent home is not, in itself, considered a suitable education. Considerations to the age, aptitude and ability and the medical/health needs of the pupil will be made. Provision should include teaching by a teacher, whether through online, group or one-to-one provision.

We will report to Cornwall Council any arrangement for pupils who are not accessing a full timetable in school. This includes pupils that access fulltime hours in a combination of school and an alternative provider.

The Cornwall Council policy for children and young people with health/medical needs and information on reduced timetables (see links above) include information and guidance on how to report a child who is accessing a reduced timetable. Further information can also be sought from the School Access Team: schoolaccess@cornwall.gov.uk

Parents/carers can access more information on the Cornwall Council website: [Reduced timetables \(part-time attendance\) - Cornwall Council](#)

Community Hospital Education Service (CHES)

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. All Cornwall schools can access support from CHES. Referrals for the CHES provision and further information can be found at www.wavemat.org

The Executive Principal of CHES, in liaison with the Cornwall Council, schools and professionals, is responsible for ensuring 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.

Reintegration

CHES will work with all other services that may be involved to reintegrate pupils back into school at the earliest opportunity, dependent upon an individual pupil's needs. Following discussion with the pupil, parent/carer, school, relevant health professional and other involved agencies, a reintegration programme will be drafted and agreed. CHES will also work with the school to produce an updated Individual Health Care Plan to support transition for those who are still recovering.

In some cases it may not be possible for the pupil initially to return to school on a full-time basis. Arrangements for reintegration (or any future education arrangements) will need to take into account any ongoing health issues or disabilities they may have. It may be appropriate for a child to return to school on a reduced timetable as outlined in section 3, for an agreed short-term period, prior to returning to full-time education.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the arrangements above are deemed unsuitable, Cornwall Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education. For information and support, we will contact the School Access Team:

schoolaccess@gov.uk and Cornwall Council's Head of Education Access and Sufficiency in the first instance.

In cases where the Cornwall Council makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with Cornwall Council, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with Cornwall Council 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 Cornwall Council 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 and approved by the Standards Committee.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical needs