

HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL



Policy Statement on **MEDICAL NEEDS**

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Medical Needs Policy for EOTAS

The following policy is for informing the response from OCYPS to young people for whom full time mainstream education becomes a problem due to illness.

Under the Education Act 1996 section 19 the Local Authority (LA) has a duty to make suitable provision for children of compulsory school age who are unable to attend school for a period time due to illness.

The Role of the Cambridgeshire County Council

The Authority must provide:

- For pupils at home without access to education for more than 15 days.
- For pupils with a prolonged illness or recurring.
- An education of similar quality to that in school including a broad and balanced curriculum.
- A minimum of 5 hours teaching per week.
- Named senior officer with responsibility for the provision of education.
- A written policy statement for children/young people who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Systems to monitor and evaluate the arrangements.

In Cambridgeshire, education for children who are unable to attend school because of medical needs can be provided in different ways, eg through the provision of a hospital or a Hospital Teaching Service, home teaching or attendance at one of the counties secondary medical needs centres.

The Role of the School

Schools have a vital part to play in ensuring that children who are absent from school because of their medical needs have the educational support they need to maintain their education. Schools are central to communication between home, school, Local Authority (LA) and Health Services. At all times the absent child remains the responsibility of the school where s/he is on roll.

School will:

- Have this policy and a named person responsible for dealing with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs. At Hinchingsbrooke this named person is Tony Heath, Assistant Head (Inclusion).
- Will provide the child with homework and materials (as soon as the child is able to cope with it), during their period of absence and prior to education provision from the LA services.
- Notify the LA/EWO if the pupil is, or is likely to be, away from school due to medical needs for more than 15 working days (see Appendix 1).
- Supply the appropriate education provider with information about a student's capabilities, educational progress and programmes of work.
- Be active in the monitoring of progress and in the reintegration into school, liaising with other agencies as necessary.
- Ensure that students are kept informed about school social events, clubs, study support and other activities.
- Encourage and facilitate liaison with peers, eg through visits and videos.
- Draw up Personal Education Plan (PEP), which is agreed with health professionals.

Education Provision

Education (other than in hospital) for young people with medical needs that prevents them from attending school is provided by Education Other Than At School (EOTAS).

EOTAS will only provide education for students who are medically certified to be unable to attend school if the protocol in Appendix 1 has been followed. They will seek to reintegrate students wherever possible.

A minimum of 5 hours per week tuition will be provided as long as all of the following apply:

- Illness is in excess of 15 days or is recurring.
- School has informed the Locality Team.
- Letter confirming illness/absence from consultant or community paediatrician is provided.
- A risk assessment is carried out of the home or teaching venue.
- Information of the student's capabilities and including IG impact of medical condition is provided to EOTAS.

Concurrently with the tuition there will be:

- Multi agency meeting covered by the school to consider reintegration and review of teaching
- A PEP drawn up from the meeting including review and reintegration plans.
- Provide review (time frame including the PEP).

All teaching will be considered short term with the aim of student reintegration into school wherever possible. It is appreciated that for a few students this may not be possible or only on a part time basis. In these circumstances the review will consider continuation and will require ongoing evidence from consultants and community paediatricians.

EOTAS are able to provide online learning and in Cambridgeshire, students who have ICT at home and the appropriate level of maturity / ability can supplement their learning by accessing a virtual classroom. ICT can also help students keep in touch with their school and peers and reduce isolation.

Withdrawal of Teaching

If a student fails to attend or make themselves available for home teaching on a regular basis without having a valid (usually medical) reason for absence then teaching will cease until a meeting is convened to establish a way forward.

Response to Absence Due to Medical Needs

