

Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy (Part 1)

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Please note that a record of the changes made to the original issue of this document can be found at Schedule 1 after any Appendices to the Policy/Procedure.

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The Cumbria Education Trust (the Trust) Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy and Procedures is sectioned into 2 parts. The Trust statement of policy (part 1) applies to all activities and responsibilities of the Trust. The subsequent arrangement and procedures (part 2) is academy or area specific and states how this is managed and organised within an establishment.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy a:

Child is any child or young person who is under 18 years of age.

Parent includes any person with parental authority over the child concerned using the definitions described in [Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility - GOV.UK](#).

Headteacher is the responsible person at school for most things and refers to any manager with the equivalent responsibility for health, safety and wellbeing of children.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This Policy is based on the statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidance document [‘Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England’](#) (April 2014; Revised December 2015) to coincide with the application of section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 which came into force on 1 September 2014. Section 100 places a statutory duty on the Trust to make arrangements to support students at school with medical conditions. This will be reviewed regularly and made readily accessible to parents, staff and, where appropriate, other adults working or volunteering in the Trust.

The Trust believes that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, should be properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy, and achieve their academic potential including access to school trips and our broad curriculum.

The Trust is committed to ensuring parents feel confident that effective support for their child’s medical condition will be provided and that their child will feel safe when attending one of our academies, ensuring that suitable arrangements and procedures are in place to manage their needs. We also understand that children’s health needs may change over time, in ways that cannot always be predicted, sometimes resulting in extended absences and our arrangements take this into account. We acknowledge that many medical conditions require additional support and resources, and the Trust will endeavour to provide and make the necessary arrangements for that support.

In addition to the educational impacts, the Trust realises that there are social and emotional implications associated with medical conditions. Trust policies and procedures will aim to support both the physical and emotional impact of any medical condition. Where necessary, reintegration back into academy life will be carefully planned to minimise the negative effect of their condition.

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Local Authorities have a duty to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health. This duty applies to all children and young people who would normally attend mainstream schools, including Academies, Free Schools, independent schools, and special schools, or where a child is not on the roll of a school. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently. Further guidance on the Local Authority duty can be found in DfE statutory guidance '[Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)' (December 2023).

Our attendance procedures will be flexible in taking into account the medical needs of students including medical appointments. This Trust also appreciates that some children with medical conditions may be disabled, and their needs must be met under the Equality Act 2010. Some children may also have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and may have a Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision. For children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), this policy should be read in conjunction with our SEND Policy and the DfE statutory guidance document '[Special Educational Needs and Disability: Code of Practice 0-25 Years](#)', January 2015.

ORGANISATION

1.1 Local Authority

This Trust understands that our Local authority must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Local authorities should:

- provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child;
- ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in statutory guidance, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible;
- address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.

1.2 Cumbria Education Trust

The Trust and its family of academies are legally responsible and accountable for fulfilling the statutory duty to make arrangements to support students with medical conditions in an academy, including the development and implementation of this Policy.

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Supporting a child with a medical condition and ensuring their needs are met effectively, however, is not the sole responsibility of one person - it is the responsibility of the Trust and each Local Advisory Board to ensure that:

- no child with a medical condition is denied admission or prevented from taking up a place at this school because arrangements to manage their medical condition have not been made while at the same time, in line with safeguarding duties, ensure that no student's health is put at unnecessary risk, for example, from infectious diseases;
- there is effective cooperative working with others including healthcare professionals, social care professionals (as appropriate), local authorities, parents and students as outlined in this Policy;
- sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on duties to support children with medical conditions;
- staff who provide such support can access information and other teaching support materials as needed.
- funding arrangements support proper implementation of this Policy e.g. for staff training, resources etc.

1.3 The Headteacher

Each headteacher has overall responsibility for implementation of the Trust's policy. To achieve this, the headteacher will have overall responsibility for the development of Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP) and will make certain that academy's arrangements include ensuring that:

- there is a named person (usually the SENCO) who can be contacted by, and will liaise with the LA and parents in relation to children with health needs;
- all staff are aware of this Policy and understand their role in its implementation;
- all staff and other adults who need to know are aware of a child's condition;
- every effort is made to ensure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully;
- where a child needs one, an IHCP is developed with the proper consultation of all people involved, implemented, and appropriately monitored and reviewed. Parents will be asked to ensure that any prescribed, controlled drugs are known to the schools so that additional safety procedures are instigated through the IHCP;
- sufficient trained numbers of staff are available to implement the Policy and deliver against all IHCPs, including in contingency and emergency situations;
- staff are appropriately insured and are aware that they are insured to support pupils in this way;
- appropriate health professionals are made aware of any child who has a medical condition that may require support at the academy that has not already been brought to their attention;
- children at risk of reaching the threshold for missing education due to health needs are identified and effective collaborative working with partner organisations aims to ensure a good education for them;
- risk assessments take account of the need to support students with medical conditions as appropriate e.g. educational visits, activities outside the normal timetable etc;
- virtual learning will take in to account the child's medical needs;
- robust procedures are in place to ensure that any prescribed control drugs are securely stored and administered by at least two adults to avoid any error.

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Part 2 of this policy will be specific to individual schools and will detail how this will be delivered in each of the Trust academies, including the responsibilities of academy staff, healthcare professionals, pupils/students, and parents.

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SCHEDULE 1

DOCUMENT CONTROL – RECORD OF CHANGES

Version Number:	Publication Date:	Nature of, and Reason for, Change(s)
001	November 2019	Updated to take account of LA statutory guidance ‘Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.’ The addition of the updates will assist in meeting the requirements for schools to have a statutory Policy (incorporated within this Policy) for Children with health needs who cannot attend school.
002	September 2020	Reviewed.
003	September 2021	Reviewed and updated to include virtual learning.
004	September 2022	Reviewed with minimal changes.
---	September 2023	Reviewed – no changes required.
---	September 2024	Reviewed – no changes required.
005	September 2025	New: Detail on liaising with external partners. LA School Nursing Service details. Reference to Allergy guidance for schools - GOV.UK . Updated: Definitions. Linked the duty to supply staff to the section on staff to reiterate the importance. More definitive language in places e.g., must rather than should, life-threatening to provide more context to what might be reasonable. Record keeping, the different types of form and responsibility for completing them fully.

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