


CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY	
DATE OF ADOPTION: DRAFT May 2022	
DATE OF REVIEW:	
TO BE REVIEWED BY: Learning and Well-being committee	

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

1. Aims

- Decoy Primary School aims to support the Local Authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.
- 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 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 child's education whilst they are not attending the school/college and will work with the local authority, 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.
- This policy aims to ensure that:
 - Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school/college due to health needs.
 - Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school/college 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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority which can be found here: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/about-send-and-the-local-offer/areas-of-need/medical-conditions/>

3. The responsibilities of the school and the local authority where a child is unable to attend school due to health needs

- Devon County Council has an **Education for Children with Medical Needs** policy. It describes statutory responsibilities in assessing the needs of children who are unable to attend school. It also describes how they make suitable provision to address those needs.
- Decoy Primary School has a **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions** policy which can be found on our school website. It details the procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a pupil has a medical condition and the role of individual healthcare plans.

3.1 Where 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.

The **SENDCo** will be responsible for:

- a) working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children with healthcare needs.
- b) developing and monitoring Individual Healthcare Plans.
- c) ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood and acted upon by all those involved and that sufficient staff are suitably trained.
- d) liaising with other education providers, parents and the child to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- e) ensuring that part-time or online packages are available to support children's learning where appropriate.
- f) supplying all pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- g) keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- h) supporting teachers in completing risk assessments for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside of the normal timetable.
- i) notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

j) seeking advice from the Education Inclusion Service where there are concerns. The Education Inclusion Service has a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs.

3.2 Where the local authority makes arrangements

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

School and parents are able to request advice from the Education Inclusion Service as to whether the school arrangements are 'suitable' or either have concerns in regards to the school being able to meet the needs of the child.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the **SENDCo** 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

Schools must not remove a child with medical issues from its roll unless:

- a) they have been certified by a medical practitioner as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school/college before ceasing to be of statutory education age; **and**
- b) neither the child nor parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school/college, after ceasing to be of statutory education age; **OR**
- c) the parent has informed the school that other arrangements are in place for the child's education.

Where a child is taken off roll, the school must inform the LA of the child's destination. The LA will monitor all children who are Electively Home Educated.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

DRAFT