



Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School

Policy for children with health needs that cannot attend school

Date Reviewed: Summer 2025
Reviewed by: Governing Body
Next Planned Review: Summer 2029



Safeguarding Statement

At Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

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 and DfE Statutory Guidance, Ensuring good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs – statutory guidance for Local Authorities (January 2013).

The responsibilities of the school

At Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstances or setting receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education guidance and work with Cambridgeshire Local Authority who have the responsibility 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 school because of their health.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who, because of illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such provision. There will however, be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Local Authority, for example, where the child can still attend school with some support. Where the school has arranged to deliver suitable education outside of school for child, or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school, we would not expect the Local Authority to become involved in such arrangements. If there is reason to think that the education provided to the child is not suitable or is not full-time, or for the number of hours the child could benefit from without adversely affecting their health, then Local Authority involvement will be sought.

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. This will involve:

- Initial contact being made by the Head of Campus in conjunction with the SENDCO, to establish the child's individual medical need and potential barriers to attending school.
- Arrangements being agreed and established e.g. sending work home, education off-site (including through hospital schools), or additional adult support within school (in line with an individual health care plan as appropriate).
- Ongoing discussions between families, school and health providers to monitor agreed arrangements and identify when / how pupils can be reintegrated back into school (where appropriate).

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements Cambridgeshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Where a pupil has medical needs that prevent them from attending school for 15 days or more, school will contact the named Local Authority representative responsible for the education of children with additional health needs. In cases where the local authority makes alternative 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 re-integrated back into school successfully.
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- When re-integration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside 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 or class events)
 - Create individually tailored re-integration plans for each child returning to school.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed on a 4 yearly cycle, unless amendments are made prior to that by Local Authority / Government.

