
NUNNEY FIRST SCHOOL



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Review Due:	June 2023
Last Review	N/A – previously contained in Supporting Pupils With Medical Conditions Policy
Applicable to:	Nunney First School
Reviewed By:	Headteacher
Approved By:	Local Governing Body – 7 th June 2021

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1. Introduction

Nunney First School is committed to ensuring that all children, including those with additional health needs, receive a good education in order to maximise the learning potential of each individual. A fundamental part of our offer aims to ensure that all children have the opportunity of an inclusive education that meets their specific needs.

Children who have additional health needs are at risk of failing to reach their potential within an educational context. This is particularly the case for those children whose health needs prevent them from attending school for an extended period of time, or for those who are restricted by their health needs to attending school on a part-time or sporadic basis.

This guidance aims to outline the support available for children with additional health needs. It includes details of when and how alternative provision will be arranged if required, and the respective roles and responsibilities of the local authority, the Frome Learning Partnership (FLP), the school, parents/carers, providers, and other agencies.

2. Roles and responsibilities of the school

Schools are required by law to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions. This duty is detailed in [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), and statutory guidance entitled [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) has been produced by the Department for Education in order to assist schools in understanding and complying with this legislation.

The key points detailed in the guidance indicate that:

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- Governors must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governors should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

The statutory guidance also indicates that schools should develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and that there should be a named person who is responsible for the practical implementation of this policy within each school.

At Nunney First School, the named person responsible for the practical implementation of the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and the Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy is the Headteacher (see section 6).

3. Legal Framework for local authorities

The Local Authority (Somerset County Council) has a duty set out in [Section 19 of the Education Act 1996](#) and in the statutory guidance, [Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#). The [Equality Act 2010](#) is also an important part of the legal framework around children with significant medical needs.

4. Role and responsibilities of the local authority

The statutory guidance is clear that there will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but may 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 or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child.

The local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision (unless the local authority considers that a pupil's condition means that full-time provision would not be in his or her best interests). This duty applies to all children and young people who live within the local authority boundaries, regardless of the type (inclusive of pupils attending academies, free schools, special schools, independent schools or maintained schools) or location (where a child is ordinarily resident in a local authority but attends school outside the county, the local authority of residence retains responsibility for arranging medical needs provision for that child) of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the roll of a school. The law does not define full-time education, but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school.

5. Local authority devolved responsibility for meeting the educational needs of children with health needs who cannot attend school

Through a Service Level Agreement with Somerset County Council and delegated funding to facilitate provision, the Frome Learning Partnership is responsible for managing education for pupils on roll in schools that are part of the Frome Learning Partnership (this includes Nunney First School), who are unable to attend school for medical reasons. Such provision is provided by a Medical Tuition Team managed by the Frome Learning Partnership.

6. Named Person

It is a statutory requirement that local authorities have a named person responsible for the education of children with additional health needs. This person is called the Medical Needs Coordinator. Please see Somerset's guidance, [Somerset Local Authority policy for the education of children and young people unable to attend school because of health needs](#), for further information.

The Frome Learning Partnership's Medical Provision Manager is

Vikki Mead VMead@educ.somerset.gov.uk

The Medical Provision Manager is responsible, in liaison with schools and professionals, for ensuring that Children's Services fulfils its statutory duties in relation to medical needs provision for children and young people who cannot attend school for medical reasons. Parents/carers can contact the Frome Learning Partnership's Medical Provision Manager or the Local Authority's Medical Needs Coordinator in order to discuss their child's specific circumstances relating to medical needs education provision. This may be particularly appropriate in instances where they feel their child's educational needs are not being addressed due to a medical condition or ill health. Schools can contact the Medical Needs Coordinator in order to obtain support, advice and guidance in relation to medical needs education provision and their own statutory responsibilities in supporting children with

additional health needs, both in general terms and in relation to specific cases. The Medical Needs Coordinator and Medical Provision Manager will also liaise with professionals and colleagues within both health and education as appropriate in order to ensure children with additional health needs are able to access a suitable education.

7. Pupils who are not on a school roll

The local authority retains responsibility for supporting children who are not on roll at a school (Children Missing Education) whose health needs prevent them from accessing education. In these instances, parents/carers or professionals working with a child who falls into this category should contact either their Education, Health and Care Plan Coordinator (for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan) or alternatively the local authority's Medical Needs Coordinator to discuss future educational provision

8. Hospital in-patients

The local authority provides education for children and young people who are in-patients at in-county hospitals, as well as offering transitional support for children and young people being discharged from long stays in hospital or those who have repeat admissions.

In certain instances, particularly in the case of severe mental health needs, children may be placed in specialist residential hospitals outside of the county by the National Health Service (NHS). Many of these facilities have access to an on-site education provision or school that can offer education as part of the package of care. The council retains responsibility for the education of these children whilst they remain in hospital and upon their discharge. In advance of a proposed discharge, particularly in the instance that an alternative educational provision is being proposed, parents/carers or professionals working with a child who falls into this category should contact either their Education, Health and Care Plan Coordinator (for children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan) or alternatively the local authority's Medical Needs Coordinator to discuss future educational provision.

9. Children with life limiting and terminal illness

The local authority will continue to provide education for as long as the child's parents and the medical staff wish it.

10. Medical Needs provision

Nunney First School will:

- seek to provide suitable education as soon as it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative;
- liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child;
- ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, prepares them for and allows them to take statutory assessments, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible;
- address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision;

- have a named officer (the Headteacher) responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is;
- have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs;
- regularly review the provision offered to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

Schools can make a Medical Needs Referral for a child who cannot attend school because of health needs where it is clear that they will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. In such cases, Nunney First School will work with the Frome Learning Partnership's Medical Provision Manager, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the provision of suitable alternative education for the child.

11. Medical Tuition referral

Medical Tuition referrals will ordinarily be made by the school. All referrals should be sent to the Frome Learning Partnership's Panel for Excluded and Vulnerable Pupils (PEVP) via a secure, dedicated mailbox flp@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Referrals require submission of the following documents:

- Medical Tuition Referral Form (to be completed by a medical professional and the school)
- PEVP Request Form (to be completed by school).

Schools must also submit the following supporting documentation:

- Attendance (in the form of a registration certificate)
- Advice from the child's medical practitioner/s
- Recent TAF meeting minutes (where appropriate)
- Evidence of support already in place/previously tried
- Education Health and Care Plan/Early Help Assessment if applicable
- Evidence of any funding attached to the child
- Evidence that the appropriate SEND processes (i.e. annual or emergency reviews) have been followed in cases where a child has an EHC Plan.

To support partnership working with the Frome Learning Partnership's Medical Tuition Team, Nunney First School will:

- make all reasonable attempts to provide an education for the child during their initial period of absence;
- work with professionals and the child's parents to complete a Medical Tuition Referral Form;
- inform the Medical Provision Manager of the likely need for medical tuition at the earliest opportunity;
- attend the FLP Panel for Excluded and Venerable Pupils (PEVP) where the referral will be considered;

- apply for medical tuition in advance if the school has been notified of a planned absence, such as an operation which may require a long recovery period resulting in the child missing out on education (either from the hospital or school).

Once a request for medical tuition has been made, a Team Around the Family meeting will be arranged to which the school, child, the child's family and all relevant support services must be invited. If the medical professional cannot attend, the Medical Provision Manager must have spoken to them prior to the meeting to find out the relevant information. The purpose of this meeting is to agree the best way forward and fully understand the aims and outcomes of medical tuition required for the child.

It is important to note that these meetings do not always result in medical tuition being agreed.

12. Medical Tuition Plans

In cases where medical tuition is approved by the PEVP Panel, a Medical Tuition Agreement will be signed. This will lead to the creation of an individual Medical Tuition Plan for the child. The nature of the provision will vary from pupil to pupil and is dependent on need.

Medical Tuition Plans typically:

- involve liaison and planning between the medical tuition tutor, the child's teacher, the medical practitioner/s, and the child's parents/carers;
- provide one-to-one tuition of up to one hour per day mirroring where possible, learning the child would be accessing at school;
- include a minimum of one face-to-face tuition session per week;
- provide support for reintegration at the earliest opportunity.

Medical Tuition Plans are reviewed at least once per term (6 term year).

The Medical Provision Manager takes responsibility for liaising with the Hospital Reintegration Service (HERS) to ensure continuity of educational provision across periods where a child needs to be in hospital.

Medical tuition may take place:

- in the child's home;
- remotely;
- in a designated space in the child's school;
- in a room in Frome Town Hall, which is set up as a classroom.

Such detail will form part of the Medical Tuition Plan that is drawn up to support the child.

Before it is agreed that teaching can take place in the home, it will be necessary to carry out appropriate risk assessments. Where a child is taught at home a responsible adult must be present in the house.

13. Medical provision attendance coding

Attendance coding remains the responsibility of the school the child is on roll at, but attendance will be communicated either daily or weekly by their medical tutor. Generally,

children accessing medical tuition only have an hour a day so can only be marked present for either the morning or afternoon session.

- Sessions attended - NOT ALL DAY just am or pm depending on session time - **'B' coded (educated off site)**
- For the remaining part of the day - **'C' coded (other authorised circumstance)**
- Sessions that are not attended - **'O' coded (unauthorised)**
- When tutors are ill, on training or need to cancel a session - **'C' coded (other authorised circumstance)**

All other codes and reasons are the same as if the child was in school e.g. 'M' for a medial appointment or '#' if the school is closed to pupils. Children accessing medical tuition still follow the academic calendar of their school.

14. Examinations and assessments

- The Named Person (see section 6) will liaise with the Medical Provision Manager regarding assessment, to inform planning as well as external statutory assessments where appropriate.
- Relevant assessment information will be provided to the medical tuition provider as required.
- Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for children with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, as early as possible.

15. Reintegration

Nunney First School views medical tuition as short-term provision intended to reintegrate the child back into school at the earliest opportunity as soon as they are well enough.

To support reintegration, the school will work with the Medical Provision Manager, child, and their parents/carers to:

- implement consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child as far as possible, to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school;
- enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or online links to lessons from school);
- create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school;
- produce/update a Medical Attendance Plan for the child;
- consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made such a part-time timetable for an agreed period of time and/or plans that take account of ongoing health problems or disabilities the child may have;
- train staff to assist with a child's return to school, seeking advice from healthcare professionals about the type and level of training needed to enable staff to feel confident in their ability to support children with additional health needs.

Note: Parents of children with additional health needs may provide specific advice but training for staff will always be provided by professional healthcare workers.

16. Links to other policies

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Equalities Policy
- General Data Protection Regulation Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

17. Monitoring and review

- This policy will be reviewed by the Local Governing Body on an annual basis.
- Any changes to the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting children with additional health needs, and to parents/carers and pupils as required, and publically via the school website.