

10 things you should know about pupils with health needs



1

The Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) Health Needs team fulfils the local authority's duty to provide education for those children who are not attending school full time because of a diagnosed health condition.

2

The education provision is delivered by a large team of fully qualified teachers. Provision is tailored to individual needs and the aim is to deliver teaching which allows the young person to achieve well. Pupils are entered for GCSE or other accredited qualifications. At GCSE the team focuses on supporting the child to achieve qualifications in English, maths and science.

3

All referrals to the team must be submitted on the official referral form, known as a passport, which is available here on the [Northumberland Virtual School webpage](#).

4

Referrals to EOTAS should be made by the school where the pupil is on roll. Professionals from social care, health or the Education Welfare team may be involved in the referral process and make recommendations, however all referrals submitted **must** be on the current passport and should be submitted by the school.

5	Supporting medical evidence must be provided by the Children & Young People's Service (CYPS), paediatricians or specialist clinicians. These professionals will provide the clinical reason the child cannot attend school full time, may make recommendations in relation to the duration the young person may be out of school and the type of teaching that would be most suitable (eg teaching at home, 1:1 teaching or attendance at group sessions).
6	The EOTAS (health needs) team only works with young people who are on a school roll. They do not provide teaching to children who have been permanently excluded or in situations where families have chosen to electively home educate their child.
7	Referrals are reviewed at a weekly triage meeting and will not proceed until the service has received both the completed passport and supporting medical evidence.
8	There is no legal timeframe by which local authorities must have started to provide education for children with health needs. We will work in partnership with all professionals and families to provide the most suitable provision as quickly as possible.
9	The team works with schools to set up an individually tailored re-integration plan for each child. These plans will be based on consultation with families, health professionals and schools.
10	The EOTAS health needs provision is funded by reclaiming individual pupil funding (or AWPU) from the school where the pupil is on roll and by funding provided by the local authority. Pupils remain on the roll of their school throughout the provision and schools are expected to monitor the quality of the provision and progress closely.
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