

Young people with long term health needs in Northumberland

All schools and academies must make arrangements to support pupils with **medical conditions**.

Those with long-term and complex conditions may need medical care whilst at school and some may also require access to additional support arrangements. Some medical conditions need to be carefully monitored in order to avert potential emergency situations and in other cases, ill health may lead to hospitalisation and extended absence. In such circumstances, parents and pupils need to have confidence that schools have effective plans and support in place in order that the pupil is safe to attend. Liaison with health professionals is crucial in order that an effective and 'joined up' plan is in place for the pupil.

Ill health can also impact in other ways. Children may be self-conscious about their conditions. If they feel they are being picked on or bullied, they can develop mental health conditions such as anxiety or depression. Indeed, some children suffer from such **mental health issues** in their own right.

Each school should have its own **policy** detailing how they will support pupils who have medical needs and the policy should include the procedures which will be followed when the school is notified that one of their pupil's has a medical condition. Children with conditions which fluctuate or where there is high risk that emergency intervention will be needed will usually have an **Individual Healthcare Plan** – this will set out what needs to be done, when and by whom. Whether such a plan is required for a particular child will usually be the result of a discussion between the health professionals, parents and school. The level of detail included in the plan will be dependent on the child's condition.

Link to DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

Of course, most children will be absent from school as a result of illness at some point. Schools would usually provide support to children who are absent for shorter periods, for example when experiencing chicken pox or flu. There will 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 made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital by an on-site hospital school. In general terms, however, **Local Authorities** should be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year.

Education Other Than At School

In Northumberland, the County Council's Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) Service is responsible for arranging educational programmes for pupils who are unable to fully access their education in school because of their health condition. Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the service will provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.

N.B. The law does not define full-time education but if children receive one-to-one tuition, for example, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer than in a school classroom situation as the provision is more concentrated.

The EOTAS Service provides teaching, either in a small group or on a one-to-one basis, for pupils with long-term illness including mental illness which impacts upon their ability to attend school. It is also a commissioner of other alternative provision which may be used to make up a full-time programme in individual cases.

Schools have a vital part to play in ensuring that pupils who are absent from school because of their health needs have the educational support they require to maintain their education. Good communication and cooperation between the school, the family and the EOTAS Service is vital if good quality education is to be provided. The timely and full completion of an Information Passport for each pupil, once the referral is approved, is particularly crucial as the alternative programme cannot get underway without this.

[F.A.Q for Health Needs](#)

STAFFING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Service Manager, Education Other Than at School, will be responsible for considering all referrals and, where these are accepted, confirming the initial educational programme the relevant EOTAS Manager for the case will seek to implement. The Service Manager will also take decisions regarding the suspension of provision as a result of non-attendance or lack of cooperation with therapeutic inputs and will refer on to the Head of Services to Vulnerable Children any appeals against such withdrawals.

Individual Learning Plans for pupils receiving their education other than at school will be drawn up by an EOTAS Manager, in liaison with the home school. Where teaching is provided as part of the programme, this will usually be delivered by part-time EOTAS teachers who are supported and line managed by EOTAS Learning Managers.

LINK to DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

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