



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Policy holder:	Director of Inclusion
To be reviewed by policy holder:	Annually
Last reviewed by policy holder:	Summer 2026
Next review by policy holder:	Summer 2027
Reviewed by Board at:	Full Board
Date approved by Board:	Summer 2024
Next review by Board:	Summer 2027
Version:	1

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1. 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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority

Supporting children who are unable to attend school because of Medical and/or Health Needs - Cornwall Council

The Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 clarified that a suitable education meant a full-time education. The only exception to this is where the physical or mental health of the child means that full-time education would not be in their best interests.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Penair aims to make reasonable adjustments to support pupils with medical, health and or other needs so that they are able to access education. The Physical and Medical Needs Advisory Service and Sensory Support Service liaise with education settings to advise on making reasonable adjustments and support them to ensure access to the curriculum.

The guidance states that for the vast majority of children or young people with medical needs, these could be met without the additional intervention of Cornwall Council. This can be achieved through school, parent and student discussions to arrange the most appropriate plan given the individual circumstances.

For example;

- where the pupil can still attend school with additional support provided by the school so that he/she may access suitable educational provision

- where the school has made arrangements to deliver a suitable education. At Penair in Key Stage 4, this is delivered by online and in person lessons covering the core curriculum at the Harbour provision.

Pupils at Penair with health / medical conditions will be properly supported with an appropriate Health Care Plan so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Agencies that can support schools and parents in writing the Health Care Plan include school nurses, PMNAS and Sensory Support Service.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Parental/ carer meetings will be held to share and identify needs, and look for how the school can support their child. These meetings may be led by the PDL or a member of the SLT team.

Individual arrangements will be made in response to the individual student's needs, these could include but are not limited to considering sending work home, short term reduced timetables, access to learning at the Harbour.

The Director of Inclusion will hold overall responsibility for the Health Care Plans and arrangements for supporting students.

Regular reviews (half termly/ 6 weekly) will be overseen by the Director of Inclusion who will liaise with the PDL's and parents. The aim is to build supportive steps to support the student returning to access full time education.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Cornwall council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits

- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Director of Inclusion. It will be approved by the full governing board every three years unless significant changes are made.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability policy

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Document control				
Approved by	Full Governing Board	Approved date	unknown	
Published location	Website	Next Review	Policy Holder Summer 2027	Governing Board (annually) Summer 2027
Version Number	Date issued	Author	Changes	
1.0	April 2026	Sally Wood	Version control implemented Amendment in section 4 confirming regularity of Governing Board review	