

Branton Community Primary School and Breamish Valley Community Nursery



Supporting pupils with health needs who cannot attend school.

Adopted from NCC /Safeguarding

Approval and Authorisation

Policy Location:	Review completed	Review Due:	Person Responsible:
On website and in main school office.	September 2024	September 2025	Emma Miller Sarah Parsons

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

1. Introduction

Branton Primary School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home.

Our school will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a Pupil should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013.

This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the pupil remains on the school roll and is educated by another educational provider.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- Branton Primary School recognises that pupils absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

2. School's Responsibility

Where a pupil is absent from school for medical reasons, Branton Primary School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the pupil is well enough to engage in education, where appropriate.

Where a pupil is absent from school for medical reasons, Branton Primary School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will liaise with the teaching service/provider to support them to plan the educational programme for the pupil, taking into account (as appropriate) the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

Branton Primary School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- Curriculum maps
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs

Branton Primary School will liaise regularly with the teaching service/provider to review the pupil's progress. While the pupil is still on roll at Branton Primary School, we have a responsibility to support them.

Where a pupil has a recurrent medical issue and medical professionals recommend that school is not a suitable environment during treatment, Branton Primary School will liaise with teaching service/providers to ensure appropriate work is given to the pupil.

3. Reintegration into the School

Branton Primary School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

Branton Primary School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

Branton Primary School will accept part-time attendance where appropriate medical professionals advise that this is in the best interests of the pupil. This will remain in place until the pupil is medically able to manage full days in school.

Branton Primary School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary and appropriate.

Throughout the absence, Branton Primary School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Branton Primary School will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the pupil.

4. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The SENDCo, Medical Coordinator and the Senior Leadership Team will monitor this policy.