



BARNDALE SCHOOL

What I learn today, prepares me for tomorrow.

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

2025-2026

Policy Location:	Written:	Review Due:	Person Responsible:
Staff Share -> Policy Library	September 2025	September 2026	Mark Phillips, Headteacher Lisa Muir, Family Support Partner Office team All staff Governing Board

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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The school will:

- Ensure they liaise with health professionals to have a 'joined up' plan
- Continue to liaise with parents/carers to plan before, during and after medical interventions
- This liaison will generally be with our family support partner, class teacher, medical professionals, parents/carers and the young person (if possible)
- The content and delivery method of learning at home would be differentiated and bespoke to ensure it is most appropriate to the young person and their needs. This could involve virtual learning and home visits.
- When the young person is almost ready to return a transition meeting will be completed to plan for their return- again being bespoke to the needs of the young person and medical advice

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Northumberland County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

Local Authority Duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Barndale School has a duty to support the LA in doing so.

The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative
- They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil

- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, 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 including having a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is
 - The named staff contact within Barndale School for the LA is Mrs Lisa Muir
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Provide clear policies and guidance on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and 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 pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mark Phillips, Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy