

**Bath and North East Somerset
Policy Statement
Ensuring a good education for children who
cannot attend school because of health needs**

Introduction

The vision for children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset is that “*All children and young people will enjoy childhood and be well prepared for adult life*”

Bath and North East Somerset’s Children and Young People’s Plan is structured around three key priorities, which were identified following consultation with Children and Young People and Parents/carers.

Those priorities are;-

- Children and Young People are Safe
- Children and Young People are Healthy
- Children and Young People have Equal Life Chances

In line with the Children and Young People’s Plan 2014/17 the following document outlines the priorities how children and young people with health/medical needs are educated in BANES.

1. Maintaining children and young people’s education in Bath and North East Somerset

All children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset will continue to have access to education when they are ill and unable to attend school/academy for health/medical reasons, temporary or long term. The nature and amount of educational activity they do have to be dictated by their health/medical condition, balanced with the need to help them keep up with their studies and maintain the momentum of their education. We are committed to the full reintegration into school/academy of all children and young people as and when their health/medical needs allow.

2. The main legislative framework is:

- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (Statutory guidance January 2014)
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England April 2014)
- Mental health and behaviour in school (Departmental advice for school staff June 2014)
<https://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00219676/special-health-needs-education>
- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/306952/Statutory_guidance_on_supporting_pupils_at_school_with_medical_conditions.pdf
- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations 2006
- Deletion from roll (School – Aged pupils)

3. Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority is :

Responsible for arranging suitable full-time education made by schools/academies (or as much education as the child or young person's health/medical condition allows) for children and young people of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority should ensure that education is provided as soon as it is clear that the child or young person will be absent from school 15 or more consecutive days and where no suitable education has been arranged either by the school/academy or Bath and North East Local Authority. The HERS should liaise with appropriate medical professionals; CAMHS/medical consultant/CFS/ME Paediatric Service and GP to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child or young person. All schools/academies must have an established system in place to challenge or support persistent absence which parents/carers attribute to illness.

What this means in practice in Bath and North East Somerset.

Where a sick child or young person is on roll of any type of school/academy (including independent schools) and or alternative provision, Bath and North East Somerset LA will have been deemed to take responsibility and make arrangements with schools/academies for suitable full time education for sick children and young people.

Where a parent/carer decides to Electively Home Educate their child the Local Authority retains a responsibility for ensuring that the parent/carer is providing a suitable education regardless of the child young person being medically fit or not

If a child or young person is unable to attend school/academy Bath and North East Somerset LA will arrange with schools/academies suitable alternative education (in line with the child or young person's health/medical needs) through the Hospital Education and Reintegration Service (HERS). The HERS will liaise with the school/academy to continue providing suitable education. In line with their health/medical needs, until they are fully reintegrated back into school/academy. For HERS input the school/academy will be charged for the service as agreed via Schools Forum.

Where a child or young person is considered unfit to attend school/academy full time through written medical diagnosis/advice from CAMHS/medical consultant/CFS/ME Paediatric Service or GP provided an official referral has been made to the appropriate medical service the school/academy is required to accommodate the child or young person's continue access to education . It is the responsibility of each individual school/academy to complete the Bath & North East Somerset Request for Support Form <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/childrens-centres/request-support-form> and together with the written medical diagnosis/advice send to the HERS. Cost must not be a barrier to accessing education.

CAMHS/medical consultant/CFS/ME Paediatric Service or GP providing an official referral has been made to the appropriate medical service the school/academy is required to make every effort to liaise with other professionals such as CAMHS/medical consultant/CFS/ME Paediatric Service

or GP and the HERS to provide an alternative education in order to accommodate the child or young person's continued access to education eg.via Bath & North East Somerset HERS.

Please refer to Regulation 8 of the Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations 2006 Deletion from roll (School-Age Pupils).

Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child or young person, because of reasons relation to their physical or mental health, Bath and North East Somerset LA arranges through schools/academies, (who continue to have the day-to-day responsibility) to provide part-time education on a basis they consider, in consultation with CAMHS/medical consultant/CFS/ME Paediatric Service or GP to be in the child or young person's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment in all curriculum areas including English, Maths and Science.

The education sick children and young people receive in Bath and North East Somerset LA will be of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance *Alternative Provision (2013)* and it should allow them to take appropriate qualifications, prevent them from slipping behind their peers in school/academy as soon as possible.

Schools/academies and Bath and North East Somerset LA should have a policy regarding what constitutes reasonable adjustments or the level of access; decisions must be made by CAMHS/medical consultants/CFS/ME Paediatric Service/GP providing an official referral has been made to the appropriate medical service. HERS and schools/academies on an individual basis and according to the needs of the child or young person. Many children and young people with health/medical needs may be considered as 'disabled' under disability discrimination legislation.

In particular, issues have arisen in providing suitable education for children and young people who suffer from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME or with emerging mental health issues. These are often 'hidden' debilitating conditions that can vary considerably and the situation can rapidly deteriorate unless support and adjustments are made through a school/academy agreed authorisation medical absence plan.

The child or young person would need an official diagnosis by CAMHS/medical consultant/CFS/ME Paediatric Service or GP providing an official referral has been made to the appropriate medical service, in order for the school/academy to create the medical absence plan.

The following are useful websites for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME:

www.ayme.org.uk - Association of Young People with ME

www.tymestrust.org - Tymes Trust - The Young ME Sufferers Trust

www.nhrd.nhs.uk/page/85 - The chronic fatigue / ME clinic

The following is useful for emerging mental health needs:

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/help-information/mental-health-a-z/>

Where advice and support is required, the school/academy should contact Bath and North East Somerset Children Missing Education Service (01225 394241) or LA Officer responsible for sick children and young people (01225 477109), who will advise on the best way of meeting the child or young person's educational needs and the plans that should be drawn up. This advice is available to all schools/academies.

Christopher Wilford is the named officer responsible for the education of children and young people with additional health/medical needs –

Christopher_wilford@bathnes.gov.uk

The following are also useful contacts:

- Statutory Special Educational Needs Service – 01225 394252
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – 01173604040
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME Paediatric Service – 01225 473425
- Children Missing Education Service – 01225 394245
- Educational Psychology Service – 01225 394901
- Family Information Service – 01225 395343
- School Nurses – as appropriate to school/academy
- Disabled Children's Team – 01454 615165

Schools/academies should ensure that staff receive appropriate training on differing conditions as and when necessary. This can be arranged, via CAMHS/medical consultants/CFS/ME Paediatric Service

Information on these services/teams can be accessed on the Bath and North East Somerset website or via the Family Information Service.

The Bath and North East Somerset LA responsible officer for sick children and young people will review this policy and procedures on at least an annual basis, prior to the start of a new academic school year or as necessary e.g. where there is a change in DfE legislation or statutory guidance.

SCHOOLS/ACADEMIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A CYP IF THEY HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

