

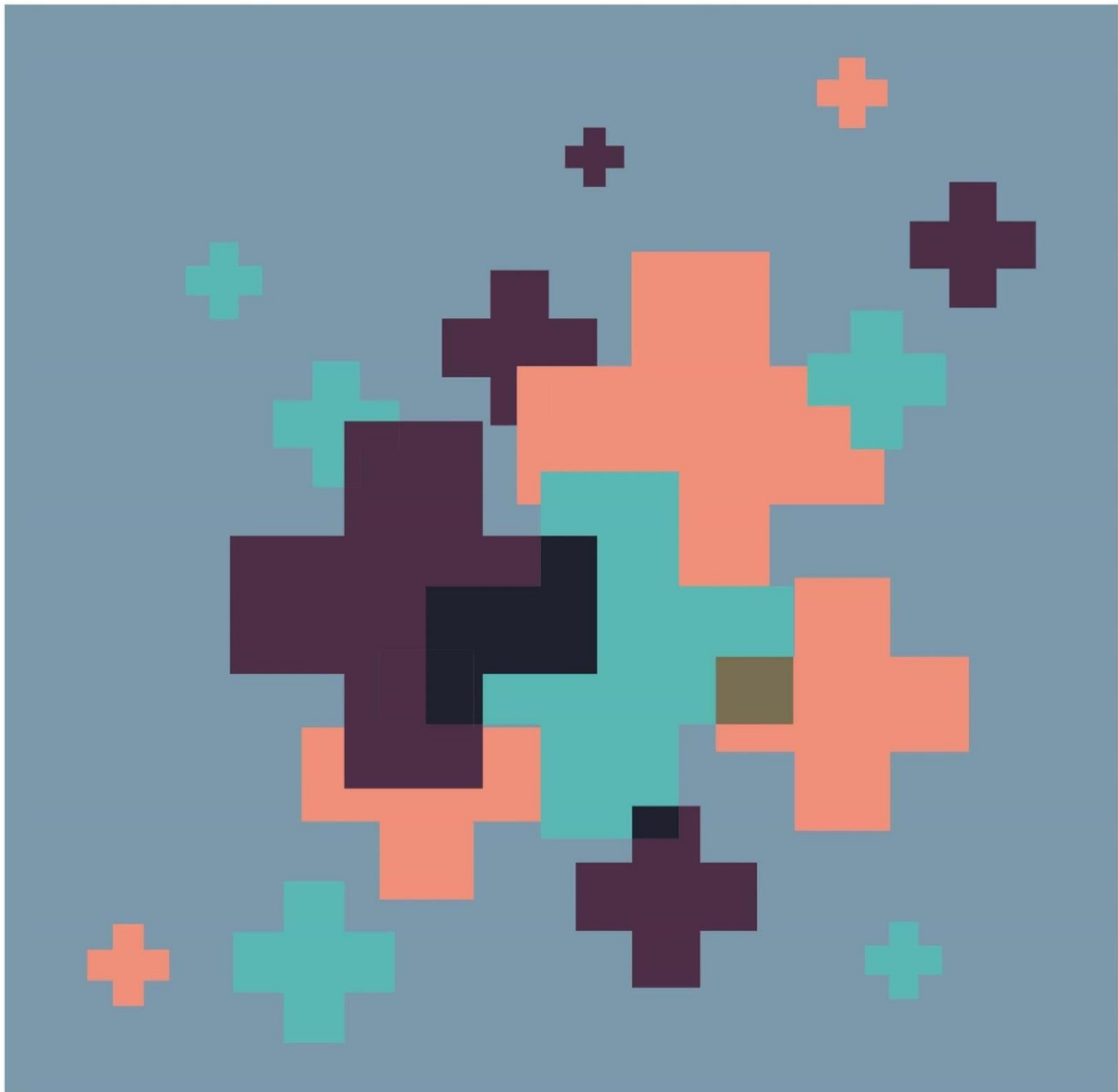
Trust Policy

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Contained within this document:

Roles and responsibilities
Procedures
Dealing with emergencies



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Policy/Procedure management log

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This policy sets out our approach to children with health needs who cannot attend school across The Suthers School. Sections 2 and 3 sets out the specific local arrangements for The Suthers School.

1. Aims

At Nova Education Trust (NET), all of our academies aim to treat all its pupils fairly and with respect. This involves providing access and opportunities for all pupils without discrimination of any kind.

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

All academies in Nova Education Trust operate in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act 2001, Equality Act 2010, and Education Act 1996. This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by Nottinghamshire County Council via the following link: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/home-education/absence-due-to-illness>. For further information about health-related queries, please contact the Health-Related Education Team on 0115 977 3481.

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

3. The arrangements of the School and Local Authority

The Suthers School will contact the Health-Related Education Team (HRET) if there are concerns about attendance or if they know that the pupil will be off for over 15 school days. If the pupil has been in hospital, staff at the hospital may make a referral to us if education provision is required on discharge. The HRET Team may ask for a medical report during the time the pupil is receiving our provision so that the provision can be reviewed in order to meet the child's changing needs.

An initial home visit is carried out by the HRET Locality Co-ordinator and a staff member from The Suthers School (if appropriate) who will meet the pupil and parent/carer, carry out a risk assessment and gather further information regarding the reason for referral. The short-term nature of the provision is explained at this point and the re-inclusion plan shared.

A member of the Health-Related Education team geographically convenient with the most appropriate skills will be appointed to teach the pupil. This will be based on the information received from the child's school and information gathered on the home visit.

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Nottinghamshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Pupils who live in Nottinghamshire and who are temporarily unable to attend school for health-related reasons can receive support from Nottinghamshire County Council. Pupils aged five to 16 who are unable to attend school due to medical reasons or severe anxiety for at least 15 days are entitled to support.

Requests for support cannot be made by parents or carers. Instead, they come from the pupil's school or hospital staff and should be supported by a consultant and/or a community paediatrician in the case of physical/medical reasons. Where anxiety is the main cause of school non-attendance, the request for support should be supported by the school's educational psychologist and possibly Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

A team of qualified and experienced teachers and teaching assistant work closely with schools to support a suitable education programme for pupils. Teaching sessions may take place in the home, but will normally take place in some other suitable venue.

In cases where the local authority decides, the school and trust 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

The pupil remains on the school roll and school are responsible for providing appropriate work, resources and exam entries so they should be covering similar work to their peers in school. Staff work closely with school and discuss the priorities with them in order to ensure that the pupil's return to school will be as smooth as possible. The children referred to the HRET Team cover the complete age and ability range including children with an Education Health and Care Plan from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4.

The aim is for the pupil to return to school as soon as possible. At first, this may be on a part time basis. Teachers and TAs will gain experience and skill at dealing with the transition from HRET provision to

school. They will liaise with school to make sure that the return is as smooth as possible and that any particular arrangements, that need to be, are in place. Medical reports will be reviewed and medical advice sought before school return arrangements are made.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust Director of Safeguarding.

At every review, it will be approved by the Full Board of Trustees.

5. Linked Policies

This policy is linked to the following policies:

- Accessibility procedure (2023)
- Attendance policy (2022)
- Behaviour Policy (Secondary) (2022)
- Equality information and objectives
- Risk assessment policy
- SEND policy (2023)
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy (2023)
- Safeguarding policy (2023)