

# Children with Health Needs Policy

Reviewed by:	Local Governors
Frequency of policy review:	Annual
Last Reviewed:	1st December 2024
By Dan Sydes	
Ratified by Local Board of Governors on:	11th December 2024
By Derek Marshall	
Next Review Date:	1 December 2025

## Version History

Date of review	Summary of Changes
1st December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• added version history</li> <li>• updated house style</li> <li>• added Reintegration section</li> <li>• Added examinations section</li> </ul>

## Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend UTC due to health needs

- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the UTC is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

## Legislation

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## Responsibility of the UTC if the UTC makes arrangements

Initially, the UTC will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend UTC. These arrangements will be coordinated by the Pastoral Director. Arrangements may include providing access to Virtual UTC resources. Parents/carers will be consulted as often as feasible to check on progress and learning. The Pastoral team will coordinate a return to UTC meeting when the child is ready to learn at the UTC. This may include considering a phased return to the UTC or additional pastoral support.

## Responsibility of the UTC if the local authority makes arrangements

- If the UTC cannot make suitable arrangements, Newcastle Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the UTC will:
  - i Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil.
  - ii Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
  - iii Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into UTC successfully.
  - iv When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
    - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the UTC, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in UTC as far as possible.
    - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with UTC life (e.g., through newsletters, emails, invitations to UTC events or internet links to lessons from their UTC)
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to UTC
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

## Reintegration

When a student is considered well enough to return to UTC, the UTC will develop a tailored reintegration plan. If appropriate, the UTC nurse will be involved in the

development of the student's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the student and to provide relevant staff training. The UTC will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the UTC and the curriculum for the student. For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the student's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill student or their parents in the early stages of their absence.

The UTC is aware that some students will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the student, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

The reintegration plan should include:

- The date for planned reintegration, once known.
- Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
- Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the student.
- Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.
- Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.
- A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.

To help ensure a student with additional health needs is able to attend the UTC following an extended period of absence, adaptations may need to be considered including: a personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with parents and the named staff member; access to additional support in UTC; online access to the curriculum from home; movement of lessons to more accessible rooms; places to rest at UTC; special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue; alternative provision for break or lunch times. The UTC will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage students and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

## Examinations and Assessments

Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the UTC, as early as possible by the Examinations Officer in discussion with the medical professionals, pastoral leads and the SENDCo. For students who are accessing their education through alternative providers, the UTC will liaise with the alternative provision provider over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate, in line with JCQ guidance.

## Monitoring

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