



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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1. Aim

White Spire School aims to support the local authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to health needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision.

We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education (Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs December 2023).

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 and Local Authority is responsible for

2. Legislation and guidance

White Spire School will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Education Act 1996.
- Working Together to Improve Attendance 2026
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (2013)
- The Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction
- Milton Keynes Children's Services policy

3. Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.

- Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school-MK does not have one currently.
- Home tuition
- Medical PRUs

4. The responsibilities of the school

Every case will be assessed individually. White Spire School will support individuals with set work/support within the initial 15 day period if a child cannot attend school due to a child's health need. Where possible when a health need is creating a barrier the Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their health needs are in place and are effectively implemented.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Working with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the local authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Notifying the local authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- To work with the Local Authority to reintegrate pupils back into school when a pupil is considered well enough to attend school.

Staff:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.

- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of named life- threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them at school

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
- Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
- Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's health needs.
- Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned

5. Local authorities must:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

They should:

- Provide education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.
- Liaise with appropriate medical professionals.
- Provide good quality education that prevents a child from slipping behind their peers in
- Reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision.

Provision for siblings

When treatment of a child's condition means that his or her family have to move nearer to a hospital, and there is a sibling of compulsory school age, the local authority into whose area the family has moved should seek to ensure that the sibling is offered a place, where provision is available, for example, in a local mainstream school or other appropriate setting (Arranging a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (Jan 2013)).

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Child Protection
- Attendance policy
- Children Missing In Education Policy
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs December 2023