Policy for Supporting Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

This policy was adopted by the school on:	**15th October 2025**
Reviewed on	**14th October 2026**
Next review due by:	October 2027

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

- **Legislation and guidance**

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

- **The responsibilities of the school**

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.

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school can provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence.

The learner will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative provision for break or lunch times or the learner may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, North Yorkshire Council (the local authority) #will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for learners who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for learners who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of learners are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting learners with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for learners with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, learners, the local authority, key workers, and others involved in the learner's care.
- Providing teachers who support learners with health needs with suitable information relating to a learner's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the learner.
- Notifying the local authority when a learner is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Dealing with learners who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring learner progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying learners' education providers with information about the learners' capabilities, progress, and outcomes.
- Liaising with the principal, education providers and parents to determine learners' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- The SENCO or keyworker will provide a link between learners and their parents, and the local authority.

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of learners' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring learners are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting learners with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their learners through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual learner's health needs.

- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their learner's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

Definitions

Learners 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

Learners who are unable to attend school for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the learner is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many local authorities have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and learners on occasions.
- Where learners are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are local authority's establishments that provide education for learners unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following documents:

- Accessibility Plan
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually and any changes will be approved by governors.