



St Helens Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Reviewed by: FGB

On: July 2025

Next review due: July 2026

Chair of Governors: Matthew Searle

Signature:

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ST HELENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children with health needs
who cannot attend school
Policy

1. 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

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ce6a72e40f0b620a103bd53/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf>

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

The Isle of Wight Council believes school is the best environment in which to educate a child; schools provide a broad and balanced curriculum alongside opportunities for social and emotional development.

The Isle of Wight Council's intention is that all children, regardless of circumstances or education setting, should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Therefore, alternative provision for children medically unfit to attend school and the framework surrounding it should offer good quality education. This support should meet the child's individual needs, including social and emotional needs and enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system.

The provision for children who are medically unfit to attend school will ensure that:

- Children make good progress in their education
- Disruption to learning is minimised and there is a continuity of education provision within the school curriculum
- Children are able to obtain qualifications as appropriate to their age and abilities
- Children are able to reintegrate successfully back into school and that this takes place as soon as their health permits
- Children feel fully part of their school community and are able to stay in contact with classmates

3.1 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.

We will aim for the pupil to continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

We will 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.

Roles and Responsibilities

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.

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The Head teacher 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 to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children
- 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

Senco is responsible for:

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs.

- Providing a link between pupils and their parents/carers, and the local authority through email and/or phone calls
- Liaise with family to make initial arrangements to support home learning
- Liaise with the class teacher to provide work for home which can take a number of forms including google classroom, hard copies (worksheets), copies of texts and general resources as required. A laptop could be provided if required.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the Isle of Wight Council 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
- See the following link for further information, roles and responsibilities

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2129-IW-Policy-Education-for-children-with-Medical-Needs-August-2020.pdf>

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senco. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board. The review will take place on an annual basis.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Equality Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions