



**Cheriton Primary School
Children With Health Needs
Who Cannot Attend School Policy**

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1. Aims

Some pupils face greater barriers to attendance than their peers. These can include pupils who suffer from long term medical conditions or who have special educational needs and disabilities. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils should be the same as they are for any other pupil. (DfE Working Together to Improve Attendance May 2022)

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. County guidance can be found through the following link. https://drive.google.com/file/d/172GyNOdy1exf_5JpTFCaw-my76vPlolf/view?usp=sharing

Latest DfE Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1099677/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf

3. The responsibilities of the school

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.

The moral and legal mandate for the school is to ensure that we are supporting children with medical needs to the best of our ability and that the school has policies and processes in place to ensure this happens.

There is an expectation that schools will make reasonable adjustments to meet the need of the child if they are able to attend school with adjustments. There is an expectation that schools will be creative and flexible in meeting needs. It is, however, left to the school's discretion as to how they meet the needs. Schools will need to demonstrate how they are meeting educational need. This includes meeting the needs of pupils who can attend school part-time and intermittently, particularly when there are known medical needs, and these

can be planned for. The link below to the Reduced Hours Timetable notification should be used in all cases.

https://forms.hants.gov.uk/en/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-d54c8557-83ac-45f9-8434-ce762a737759/AF-Stage-fb9effc0-1d95-40de-a4e4-d364315df21b/definition.json&redirectlink=/en&cancelRedirectLink=/en

Schools retain the responsibility to provide a suitable education for all its pupils and must be able to make reasonable adjustments according to identified needs. Occasionally a joint package of support may be arranged for the CYP person between the school and HCC through the Inclusion Support Service (ISS). The pupil will remain on the school roll (see 'Intervention' below).

- The head teacher will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- A range of arrangements may be considered when providing learning opportunities for the CYP including work being prepared by the school and sent for the child to complete, online learning including live links to class lessons, the provision of a tutor to work with the child.
- Parents and children will be consulted about these arrangements through face to face meetings, phone calls and emails and sensitive conversations. The child's progress will be reviewed regularly, in consultation with the parent/carer, the home school and other relevant services. Reviews may be made more frequently according to need. It should be recognised that a child's educational needs and ability to access education may change depending on their health and that the programme may need to be flexible to accommodate this. Developing good support as well as considering whether additional support from external partners (including the Local Authority or Health Services) would be appropriate, and then making referrals in a timely manner and working with those services to deliver subsequent support is key.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hampshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Education Support for Medical Absence is part of the Inclusion Support Service (ISS) and aims to provide support for Hampshire residents of statutory school age who are temporarily unable to attend their school or programme of support due to the impact of their medical condition.

Sometimes children or young people become too unwell and are unable to attend school for a significant period of time. At these times the LA can in partnership with the school make suitable arrangements for that CYP's continuing education that takes into account their age, aptitude, ability and SEN needs and their health condition.

- The decision as to whether arrangements are 'suitable' will be made in consultation between the Head teacher, the class teacher, the parents and ISS.
- When ill health persists beyond 15 consecutive or non-consecutive days the school should make a referral to Inclusion Support Services at County.
- Before considering a referral to the local authority for advice and guidance a school must satisfy itself that a CYP's absence is due to ill-health and that there are no other factors influencing non-attendance.

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

Related Polices	Accessibility Plan, Supporting Pupils with medical Conditions at School
Approved by Full Governing Body	March 2023
Committee	Learning
Reviewed by	LB
Last Reviewed	March 2023
Date for Review	March 2024