



Reviewed and Approved at the Spring 2026 Full Governing Body

Next review: Autumn 2028

Signed: *Q Thorne* Chair of the Full Governing Body
J Feeley Headteacher

Highfield Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL DUE TO MEDICAL NEEDS POLICY

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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/carers 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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Our responsibilities set out are guided by general good practice derived from [DfE guidance](#). Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Arrangements may include sending work home, sharing work via our online platforms such as Tapestry or Seesaw, or paper home learning packs as appropriate.

During any time of illness the school will ensure that an appropriate staff member liaises with the pupil and their family to agree arrangements and, when appropriate, support the pupil back into school. Once a child is absent from school for 15 days or more due to medical needs, the school will liaise with the local authority to discuss the next steps.

3.1 If the school makes the arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The SENDCo, the Headteacher, Learning Mentor, School Attendance Officer and Class teacher, will be responsible for administering this policy and working with the family. Where a child is in hospital and/or accessing education through the Medical Needs Teaching Service, wherever appropriate, class based staff will liaise with hospital based teachers.

Every effort will be made to provide remote learning using our online platforms for a child who is unable to attend school and if they are well enough to access learning. Parents/carers will be consulted and kept informed of progress and in turn are expected to inform school of any of progress or any concerns. Our aim is to reintegrate pupils back into school at the earliest opportunity and in line with a child's healthcare plan or medical instruction.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Leeds City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. Medical professionals, along with parents and school based staff would consider whether the offer of education from school is suitable. If it is agreed that this is not the case, a referral can be made to the Medical Needs Teaching Service.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil



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- 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, SENDCo and SEND Governor. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Remote Learning Policy