



Whitby School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy.

Governance Status

This policy was formally adopted by Governors in December 2022 and will be reviewed every two years, or as necessary in light of new government or Local Authority guidance.

Review dates	By Whom	Date for Approval
October 2022	Staff and governors	14 December 2022
October 2024	Staff and governors	10 December 2024

Signed by the Chair

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils/students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- pupils/students, 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 North Yorkshire local authority.

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.

This will be done as follows:

- A member of the Pastoral Team will meet with parents, carers and students to assess need and to plan for provision to be made.
- The Pastoral Team will then make arrangements with the student's teachers to organise work to be sent home.
- This work will be delivered electronically through the school's online learning platforms i.e. Google Classroom
- The plan will be reviewed every two weeks with the parents, carers and students.
- If the student is able to return to school, a reintegration plan will be created in consultation with the student, parents, carers and any relevant health professionals.

A reintegration plan may include:

- A personalised timetable that reflects the student's health capabilities;
- Access to additional support in school both in class and/or catch up sessions;
- Access to IT curriculum to access from home;

- Movement of lessons to more accessible classrooms;
- A place to rest at school;
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.
 - If a student has 15 days of absence, consecutive or accumulative, due to a medical need and school are unable to offer an education, an access request to the MES will be made by the school. To be eligible for short-term intervention from the Medical Education Service Student, students must have a diagnosed health condition which in itself is preventing them from attending school.
- All requests for medical education for students, of statutory school age, must be submitted to the Inclusion Service using the medical education request form.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, North Yorkshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The Medical Education Service team will provide short-term education to help provide continuity in education when a student has been absent from school for 15 days or more due to a physical or mental health need. All students referred for support from the Service must meet the following criteria:

- A resident in North Yorkshire, or is receiving education in a North Yorkshire educational establishment.
- Aged 5-18 years or up to 25 years if they have an EHC Plan.
- A diagnosis from a recognised health specialist which does not include a GP. It is this diagnosed health condition which is the reason they are unable to attend school.
- Currently receiving specialist help and support from a recognised health professional.
- Evidence from the health specialist, delivering the help and support which describes what the child or young person can do from an educational perspective.
- The student must have been absent from school for 15 days or more (one off or cumulatively) due to their medical condition.
 - The request has been discussed with parents/carers and signed consent has been obtained from those with parental responsibility or from a young person themselves, where they are considered to be competent and are over 16 days of age.

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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by staff and governors. 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/students with medical conditions
- Safeguarding.