KINGSBURY SCHOOL

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School Policy

LOCAL LEVEL POLICY

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Policy compiled by Martin Clarke			Approved by the Local Governing Body: Signed: Helen Hewlett Date: 17th March 2026
Signed: Martin Clarke On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team			
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Date	Notes
16th March 2026	Policy reviewed by M Clarke
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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Kingsbury School aims to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with agencies and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Types of health/medical issues resulting in a child being unable to attend school for a prolonged period of time might include:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses

We recognise that mental health needs are as significant as physical health needs. Where absence is related to mental health, we will work sensitively with families, health professionals and the local authority to ensure appropriate support is in place.

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for students with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Student Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- The Children and Families Act 2014

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (updated January 2023)
- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (updated January 2023)

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority: Supporting children and young people with medical needs in school – Warwickshire County Council

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

3. 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.

3.1.1 Summary of school responsibilities

- The Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Safeguarding) and Associate Assistant Headteacher (SENDCo) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements, supported by other members of the Senior Leadership Team and Key Stage Leaders/Pastoral Leads.
- Arrangements will be made depending on individual circumstances and could include setting work on our school IT platforms (Firefly), sending work home, accessing hospital schools, live or recorded lessons via digital platforms, regular contact with teaching staff, and access to the same curriculum materials as their peers in school.
- Parents/carers and children will be consulted about these arrangements by being invited into school to meet the relevant Key Stage Leader and Pastoral Lead; where this is not possible alternative arrangements for consulting parents/carers and children will be made (for example, home visit, telephone call)
- Key Stage Leaders, the Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Safeguarding), and Associate Assistant Headteacher, SENDCo (where appropriate) will work closely with parents/carers and children to reintegrate students back into school in a timely and safe manner, with regular review meetings between all parties and any relevant external professionals. Review meetings will continue regularly following the student's return to school.
- All safeguarding procedures will continue to apply. Staff will remain vigilant to safeguarding concerns and follow the school's safeguarding policy and procedures."

3.1.2 The Governors and Headteacher are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students 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 students 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 students with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the student's care.
- Providing teachers who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect of the condition and/or medication taken has on the student.
- Notifying the Local Authority when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

3.1.3 The Associate Assistant Headteacher (SENDCo) is responsible for:

- Dealing with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring student progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the Senior Leadership Team, education providers and parents to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Liaising with the First Aid Team to create Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP) upon a student's reintegration (where appropriate and needed).

3.1.4 Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities that allow for those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring that students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understand their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student'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 child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Warwickshire County Council become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

~~When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.~~

When the local authority arranges alternative education, this must be in place by the 6th day of the child's absence from school. For children with long-term or recurring health needs, arrangements should be made from day 1 of absence where possible.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In Warwickshire this provision is made in three ways which form a continuum of provision.

- Hospital teaching – This service is usually provided by hospitals outside Warwickshire. Warwickshire is then recharged for this provision.
- Teaching at home or in small community settings (**not Elective Home Education)** – for children and young people who, because of their health need, are unable to attend the school setting. This service can be provided by the Flexible Learning Team.
- Support for reintegration to school for children and young people who are recovering from illness, and it has been agreed by the appropriate agencies that they are unable to attend school full-time. This support will be planned in partnership with the school. It will be phased, monitored and, in the interest of achieving a successful reintegration, time limited. This service can be provided by the Local Authority services including the Specialist Teaching Service, Integrated Disability Service and/or the Flexible Learning Team.

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any students at compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child.
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this.
- We will work with examination boards to arrange appropriate access arrangements and special considerations, including alternative examination venues where needed.
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources.

- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Information will be shared in accordance with GDPR and data protection legislation, with appropriate consent from parents/carers where required, and in the best interests of the child.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team. At every review, it will be approved by the Local Governing Body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting students with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Remote Learning Policy