

GRANGE INFANT SCHOOL

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

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/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the **Education Act 1996** (Section 19), **The Equality Act 2010** and **The Data Protection Act 2018**. It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. However, this county policy is under review and has not yet been finalised. The Hampshire County Council (HCC) contact is Jonathan Willcocks who is the Inclusion Support Service Manager

Other guidance:

Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs: Statutory guidance for local authorities December 2023:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf

Arranging Education for Children who cannot Attend School because of Health Needs DfE 2023:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657995f0254aaa000d050bff/Arranging_education_for_children_who_cannot_attend_school_because_of_health_needs.pdf

Further sources of information

‘Alternative Provision: A guide for local authorities, head teachers and governing bodies of schools, pupil referral units and other providers of alternative provision’:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00211923/alternative-provision>

‘Advice to schools on attendance’:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance>

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

The responsibilities of the school

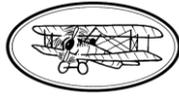
If the school makes arrangements

Initially, Grange Infant School will attempt to make arrangements to deliver a suitable education for the child with health needs who cannot attend school. The person responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements is the Headteacher, in close communication with the SENDCo. The arrangements may be sending work home, sending work to hospital schools or an agreed part time timetable (in which case County will be informed).

We will consult with parents/carers and the appropriate professional about these arrangements; often the school nurse will be involved in this process and an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) is completed. We will work closely with the parents/carers or organisations to ensure that the reintegration back into school is appropriate for the student.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If Grange Infant School can't make suitable arrangements, we will contact Hampshire Local Education Authority and request that they take responsibility for arranging an education for these children. This will usually be when the child needs a tutor because they are experiencing an extended period away from school and the school cannot meet the need of the child. We will complete a form for the Inclusion Support Service.



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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the child is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, we will 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
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g., through newsletters, Class Dojo, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school via Google Classroom)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Responsibilities

The Governing Board and Headteacher are responsible for:

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

The SENDCo is responsible for:

- Dealing with pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, education providers and parents to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
- Understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil'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.

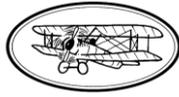


Absences

- Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.
- For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the named person with responsibility for pupils with health needs (SENDCo) will notify the LA, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
- For hospital admissions, the Headteacher and the SENDCo will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.
- The LA will set up a personal education plan (PEP) for the pupil which will allow the school, the LA and the provider of the pupil's education to work together.
- The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.
- The school will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where: The pupil has been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age; and neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school's medical officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the pupil's education.

Support for pupils

- Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil. The LA expects the school to support pupils with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to pupils' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
- The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' IHCPs, in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
- During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
- Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the LA to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods: school newsletters, emails, invitations to school events, cards or letters from peers and staff.
- Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
- To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered:
 - A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member
 - Access to additional support in school
 - Online access to the curriculum from home



- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms
- Places to rest at school
- Special exam test arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue.

Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

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

Chronic illnesses.

- Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:
- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), SENDCo, Deputy DSL. At every review, it will be approved by the governing board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy
- Supporting pupils with medical needs policy.

Complaints

Should parents or children be dissatisfied with the support provided they can discuss their concerns directly with the Headteacher. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

Agreed: This policy was agreed and ratified at the Governing Board meeting held 25th June 2025

Review: This policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed
Headteacher

Signed
Chair of Governors

Reviewed: June 2025

Next Review: June 2026