"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Thatcham Park C.E. Primary & Nursery School,

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

Our Christian values underpin our ethos; every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential. Every member of our school community is encouraged to respect and value each other. We want our children to learn to understand and respect our common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Equal access to education for all is promoted in our school
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the rquirements of The Education Act 1996 and The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 and statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) Alternative provision and Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority Medical Tuition Service snd Schools' Admission Policy.

3. Definitions

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

- Physically unwell
- Injured
- Mentally unwell

Status	Version	Date Approved	Next Review
Approved	2	November 2026	October 2027

4. Responsibilities of the school

If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements through a graduated response to deliver education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

This could be in the form of providing electronic and/or paper based learning activities, set by the teacher and monitored by the Teaching & Learning Lead. Parents will work with school, in partnership, to ensure learning is undertaken.

The school will provide personalised plans to ensure:

- Support is in place for pupils who are:

  - reintegrating into school after a period of illness or injury

  - frequently absent from school for short periods of time due to the nature of their chronic illness or following a course of treatment

- support is in place for pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs. The Teaching & Learning Lead will liaise with the class teacher to ensure appropriate work is sent home or sent to hospital schools where this is relevant

- pupils are informed about school events through newsletters, messages, invitations to school events or share internet links; and encourage communication with their peers

- pupils feel supported in their learning and individual plans have been assessed to meet their needs accordingly, and this will be reviewed regularly

- pupils are closely monitored when they return to school after an extended period of absence, and make sure effective support is in place to help settle them back into school life and learning. This will include whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

- All avenues of support should be explored to support the assessment of pupils prior to moving onto the next step

If the local authority makes the 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, West Berkshire Local Authority will 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.

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of 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 statutory assessments at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- 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

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Status	Version	Date Approved	Next Review
Approved	2	November 2026	October 2027