



Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Approved by:	Pupil Outcomes and Wellbeing Committee	Date: 18 June 2025
Last reviewed by: on:	Mrs K Turner June 2025	
Next review due by:	April 2026	
FGB Ratification:	9 July 2025	

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Attendance Policy; Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy; Accessibility Plan and Safeguarding Policy

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

Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. See Appendix 1

Responsibilities

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.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Heads of Year are responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

Parents/carers will be invited to a meeting to discuss the needs of their child.

Pupils will be reintegrated back into school through negotiation with the parent/carer and other relevant professionals e.g. CAHMS, psychologists, GP. The DSL will collate information from the parents, child and any relevant healthcare professionals to complete an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) which will be circulated to all relevant professionals. See Appendix 1 for steps.

If the local authority makes arrangements

If the needs of the students are such, the local authority (West Sussex County Council) agencies take over responsibility of their care and become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

For example – If a child is in hospital for a period of time or is educated out of the area.

The process for referring a child to the local authority will be done in association with external professionals e.g. CAHMS, Social Services and other health services.

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

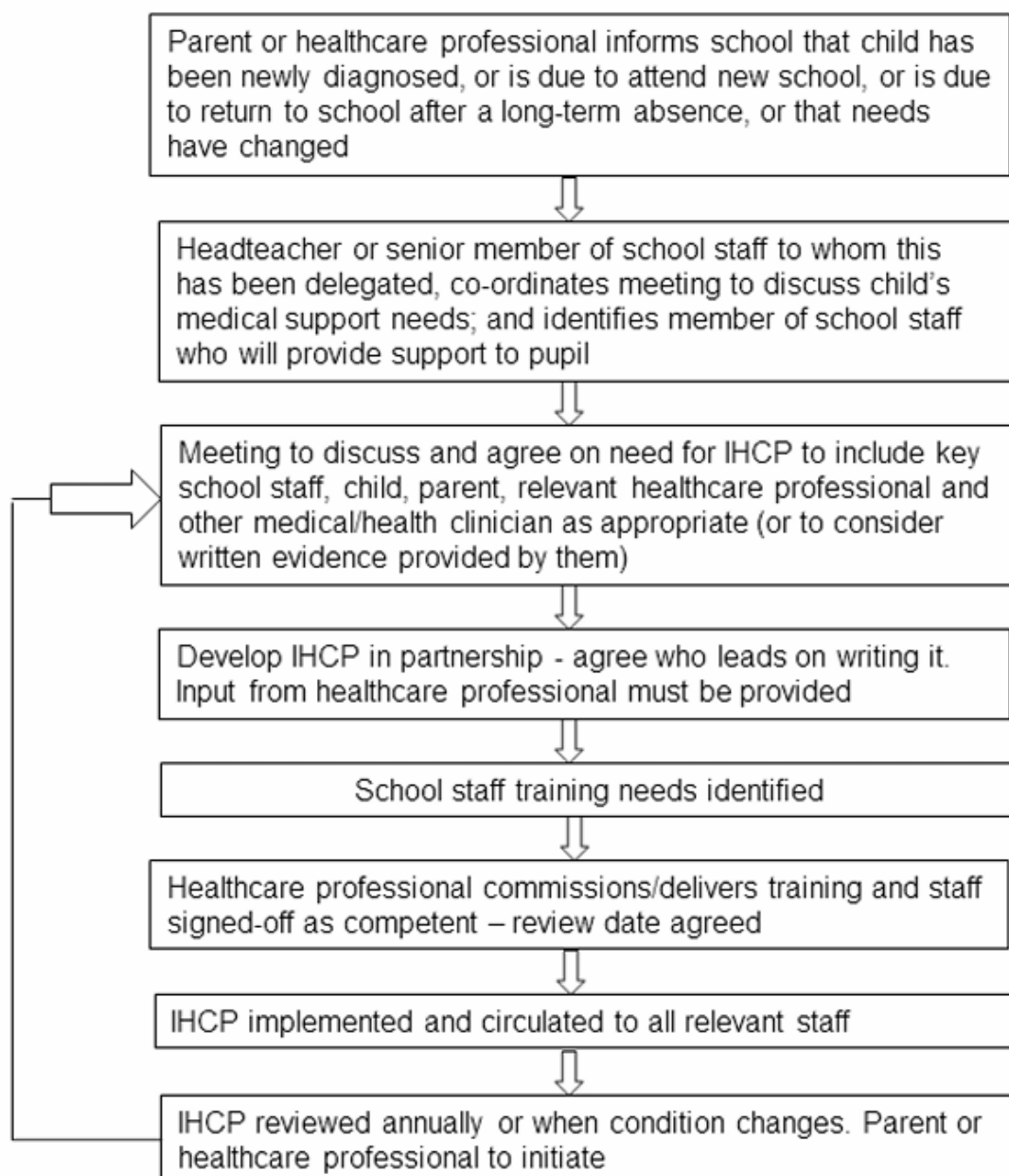
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Create an IHP for the child which will be reviewed annually or as and when the medical need changes.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. At every review, it will be discussed at POW committee and ratified by the full governing board.

Appendix 1:

Annex A: Model process for developing individual healthcare plans



Appendix 2

West Sussex Policy Statement

Education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

Last Updated: October 2024

Children may experience ill health at some point during their time at school and others may have an ongoing medical condition that potentially impairs their ability to access full time education within a school setting.

In the majority of cases, schools are able to support pupils in such circumstances effectively. Schools must have regard to the Department for Education Statutory guidance [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#), and are expected to make reasonable adjustments to support pupils to continue to access education.

There may be occasions, where, despite best endeavours, schools are unable to meet the educational needs of a pupil with a medical need. Additional statutory guidance for [arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#) outlines how, in more exceptional cases, support must be made available via the Local Authority, in order to minimise disruption to a child's education, where their needs cannot be met by the school.

This guidance applies to pupils who:

- are of statutory school age
- are permanently resident in West Sussex (including children who attend schools outside the county) and
- are not in school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative due to ill health
- have had their health need and necessity for absence validated as necessary by a medical consultant
- will not receive a suitable full-time education unless the local authority makes the arrangements

The role of the county council

West Sussex County Council commission medical provision through the [West Sussex Alternative Provision College](#) with referrals made via the pupils on-roll school and managed by the Fair Access Team. Referrals must be supported by appropriate medical evidence.

On the rare occasion that a child does not have an on-roll school, relevant parties are able to access support and guidance by emailing the [Fair Access Team](#).

It is evidenced that in the vast majority of cases, access to full time education within a mainstream setting is vital to ensuring children are able to thrive and reach their full potential.

The aim of medical provision, therefore, is short-term intervention to support the pupil towards reintegration back into a mainstream education when they are well enough. This

is done at the earliest opportunity, working closely with the pupil, schools, parents or carers and other relevant professionals.

Named officer

The named officer for West Sussex County Council is Helen Johns.