Townlands C of E Primary Academy
Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

Approved by: Rachael Johnson (Chair of Governors)
Date: November 2026
Next review due by: November 2027

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 when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.

Responsibilities of the parents

- Parents must notify the school on the first day of their child's absence or in advance – if a medical appointment or operation is planned.
- School will ask parents to provide evidence from health professionals if the child is to be absent for medical reasons.

Responsibilities of the School

- If a child's absence is likely to be less than 15 days, then staff will liaise with parents and health professionals, if necessary. They will ascertain if the child will be well-enough to complete any learning tasks that are sent home and any reasonable adjustments that need to be made to make them accessible.
- If a child's absence is likely to be 15 days or more, school will notify the Inclusion Service Team.
- With the permission of parents and the advice of the Inclusion Service Team, school may contact key health professionals, that support the child, to identify the best way to engage the child in education and re-integration back into school.

Responsibilities of the Local Authority

- Leicestershire Education Authority will support school to make the necessary arrangements so that the child can receive an education whilst they are too ill to attend school.
- The Local Authority states some possible options here: Education for children with medical needs | Leicestershire County Council
- Where education is provided outside of school, the child's family will have access to an education officer. They will keep the family informed of the education offer, co-ordinate the education and reviews with school/ health/ other agencies and enable support for the child to reintegrate back into school.

Working together

School will ensure that, in the event of a child with health needs being unable to attend school, they will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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, school will 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 where applicable
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND and Inclusion policy
- Equality policy