



Ireby Church of England Primary School

Vision – ‘Created to do good’ – Ephesians 2:10

Children with health needs who cannot attend School Policy & Procedures

Approved by: ¹

Michael John
Head Teacher:

Date: 28/01/2024

Philippa Irving
Chair of Governors:

Date: 28/01/2024

Next review date: ² 27/01/2025

¹ This policy requires approval from the Full Governing Body

² This document must be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation/statutory guidance changes.
It is not a requirement for this policy to be published on the school website.

KEY ROLES

As at the time of publication the following key roles were held:

Lead contact in school for queries regarding children with health needs who cannot attend school	Michael John, Head Teacher
Lead Governor for children with health needs who cannot attend school	Philippa Irving, Chair of Governors
SENDCO	Graham Wigginton
Local Authority Manager responsible for the education of children with additional health needs	Sally Senejko, Senior Manager SEND and Inclusion: SEND@cumberland.gov.uk

REVIEW SHEET

Each entry in the table below summarises the changes made to this document since the last review.

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
01	New Policy, personalised for Ireby School	23/01/2023
02	Policy reviewed and updated. (DfE guidance has been updated in December 2023, and Cumberland Council Policy has been updated in November 2023. Links to both of these have been added below.)	28/01/2024

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INTRODUCTION

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy and procedures a child, young person, pupil or student is referred to as a 'child' or a 'pupil' and they are normally under 18 years of age.

Wherever the term 'parent' is used this includes any person with parental authority over the child concerned e.g. carers, legal guardians etc.

Wherever the term 'Head teacher' is used this also refers to any Manager with the equivalent responsibility for children.

The term 'school' refers to Ireby Church of England Primary School. The term 'school' also includes wrap around care, such as Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs.

2. Statutory Guidance

The governing body of our school are required to review the requirements outlined in the DfE Statutory Guidance: '[Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)' on an annual basis.

That guidance was last updated in December 2023, and a copy can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

Whilst the guidance places obligations on local authorities (LAs), rather than on schools, it clearly has an impact on how our school needs to respond when faced with a pupil with health needs who cannot attend school.

3. The implications for our Local Authority – Cumberland Council

Our Local Authority (LA) – Cumberland Council – has a statutory obligation to publish its own Policy – '[Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)'.

That Policy was last updated on 14 November 2023, and a copy can be found here:

<https://fid.cumberland.gov.uk/kb5/cumberland/directory/advice.page?id=fxiL6au3iRA>

4. The implications for our School

We recognise that any pupil at our school could experience health problems which affect their ability to attend school at all, or enable them to only attend intermittently.

We will play our part in the implementation of the LA Policy mentioned above, and also contribute to the requirements and intentions of the DfE Statutory guidance – in order to ensure a good education, and the best possible outcomes, for any such pupil who is absent from our school due to their health.

- In most situations our school will be able to support a pupil who is absent due to health needs, without any assistance from the LA or other parties. The Head teacher and other Teachers will liaise with the child's parent(s) regarding any such absence, and where appropriate will also liaise with the pupil concerned – e.g. to agree on learning that can be undertaken at home, and to ensure the pupil remains connected with our school community.

- However, in some other situations support from 3rd parties (outside of the school) will also be necessary. The Head teacher will take the lead role in any such situation; will decide where such involvement is thought to be needed; and in addition to holding further discussions with the parent(s) & pupil, will also consult with others who are able to assist – e.g. the School Nursing Service, SENDCO, LA, Home and Hospital Tuition Service (HHTS), Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) etc. The content of the DfE Statutory guidance and LA Policy will both be used to guide the school's decisions and actions in such a situation.

Our 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and procedures' (which sets out how our school will provide support to pupils with additional health needs) should be read in conjunction with this Policy.