

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school

Policy reviewed and updated	23/01/2026
Date of next review	23/01/2027
This policy will be subject to ongoing review and may be amended prior to the scheduled date of the next review in order to reflect changes in legislation where appropriate	

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll at Harefield School who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when education is being provided either by the school or by the local authority
- There is a clear, consistent and timely approach to supporting pupils with health needs and planning for successful reintegration back into school

2. Legislation and guidance

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

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

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/8500/Education-of-children-unable-to-attend-school-because-of-additional-health-needs>.

It also reflects statutory and non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- *Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school*
- *Alternative provision*

This policy also has regard to guidance provided by Hillingdon Borough Council on the education of children unable to attend school because of additional health needs.

As an academy, this policy complies with Harefield School's funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the School

Where possible, pupils' health needs will be managed by Harefield School so that they can continue to be educated by their home school, with appropriate support, and without unnecessary intervention from the local authority.

3.1 If Harefield School Makes the Arrangements

Initially, Harefield School will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable, high-quality education for pupils with health needs who cannot attend school.

- The Head of Year or Head of Key Stage, under the oversight of the Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral), will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring these arrangements.
- Work will be provided through Google Classroom, remote learning platforms, or sent to hospital settings where appropriate.
- The curriculum offered will, as far as possible, mirror the pupil's usual timetable and curriculum to reduce gaps in learning.
- Parents/carers and pupils will be consulted and kept informed via email, phone calls and, where possible, face-to-face meetings to explain the support and expectations.
- The school will monitor engagement and progress and adapt provision as required based on medical advice and the pupil's capacity to learn.

Reintegration:

- Parents/carers will be invited to a planning meeting prior to the pupil's return to school.
- A phased or reduced timetable may be implemented temporarily, where appropriate, to support a successful transition back into full-time education.

- Reasonable adjustments will be made to support the pupil's physical, emotional and academic needs.

3.2 If the Local Authority Makes the Arrangements

If Harefield School cannot make suitable arrangements, or where it is clear that a pupil of compulsory school age will be absent from school for 15 days or more (consecutive or cumulative) due to validated medical reasons, Hillingdon Borough Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education.

In line with statutory guidance:

- Education arranged by the local authority should begin as soon as possible and no later than the 6th day of absence.
- Where full-time education is not in the pupil's best interests due to health needs, the local authority will arrange part-time education on a basis it considers appropriate.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, Harefield School will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, education providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil.
- Share relevant information with the local authority and health services, in line with data protection requirements.
- Collaborate to ensure continuity and consistency of curriculum and learning materials.
- Regularly review the effectiveness of the provision with the local authority.
- Support pupils with complex or long-term health needs through joint planning with parents/carers, health professionals and the local authority.
- Where possible, support pupils to sit examinations alongside their peers.

Reintegration Following Local Authority Provision:

When reintegration is anticipated, Harefield School will work closely with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.
- Enable the pupil to remain connected to school life through newsletters, digital platforms and invitations to appropriate events.
- Create an individually tailored reintegration plan, including academic catch-up and pastoral support.
- Consider and implement any reasonable adjustments required to support a sustained return to school.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Farah Ahmed, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral). Any updates will be approved by the full Governing Board.

5. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- SEND Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy