



The Cowplain School

Work Hard. Enjoy Learning. Achieve Highly.

Medical Policy for Children unable to attend School

Approved: Summer 2024

Review date: Summer 2026

1 Rationale

The Cowplain School is committed to ensuring that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We understand that we have a continuing role in a student's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with Hampshire County Council Inclusion Support Service, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education. Individual cases, which can be complex, will be discussed with the Inclusion Service Officers who can provide additional support and guidance.

We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough.

1.2 Objectives

- To arrange suitable education for students on roll who cannot attend The Cowplain School due to health needs
- To ensure students, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by Hampshire County Council Inclusion Support Service (the local authority)

2. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance including the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'

3. Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school because of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses.

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: a service that acts as a communication channel between schools and students on occasions where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1 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 individual circumstances will be taken into account.

Arrangements will be coordinated and monitored by the Attendance Manager, the appropriate Head of Year and AHT responsible for Inclusion, with work being set by the class teacher. In most instances, work will be made available via Google Classroom and/or other online learning tools and platforms (see Remote Learning Policy).

Parents will be contacted by email and/or telephone as appropriate to make arrangements. If the child is under the care of a hospital and attending provision through a hospital school, the school will liaise directly with tutors via email.

When children are ready to reintegrate to school, a reintegration meeting will be held by the Attendance Manager and the Head of Year with the parent and child and an appropriate timetable agreed to transition the child back into the school routine.

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Hampshire County Council Inclusion Support Service will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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 student
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student 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 student to access the same curriculum that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the student 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
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

5. Links to other policies

Accessibility plan
Attendance Policy
Supporting students with medical conditions
Remote Learning Policy

6. Hampshire County Council Inclusion Support Service (ISS)

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By post

Inclusion Support Service
Children's Services Department
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court North
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UG

7. Monitoring, evaluation and review

The policy is monitored by Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team. The effectiveness of the policy (against the Objectives) will be reviewed by Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team every 2 years.

Date Reviewed and approved:	Summer 2024	Reviewed by:	JPS	Next Review:	Summer 2026
Summary of changes made:	Wording alterations Governors replaced by Trustees				