



West Kirby
Grammar School

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Administration Use:	
Statutory/Non-Statutory:	Statutory
Review:	Annually
Next Review Date:	Spring 2027

Contents

1. Aims.....	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. The responsibilities of the school	2
4. Monitoring arrangements.....	3
5. Links to other policies.....	3

1. Aims

West Kirby Grammar School (WKGS) believes that no child should miss out on education because of a medical need. We are committed to maintaining each student's educational progress, wellbeing, sense of belonging and connection with the school community throughout any period of absence.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Students, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Local Authority.

2. Legislation and guidance

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

Where available, it is also based on guidance provided by Wirral Local Authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 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.

Where a student is unable to attend school for an extended period due to a health need, the Senior Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral/SENCO) will work in collaboration with the young person, their parents/carers, the school's pastoral team, relevant medical professionals, and the Local Authority to ensure that the young person continues to receive suitable educational input.

This is considered on a case-by-case basis, and arrangements are tailored to the health needs of the young person, their treatment regime and its impact on the young person. The school will use a person-centred approach throughout the planning and implementation of arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, always guided by medical advice from suitably qualified professionals.

Provision for children with health needs may include:

- Temporary bespoke timetable arrangements i.e. adjusted start / finish times to accommodate treatment regimes, the impact of medication and any fatigue which may be associated with their condition.
- Temporary provision of work to be completed at home while a solution to a return to onsite education is sought.

- Referrals to alternative provision settings, including Wirral Hospital School, which is sometimes referred to as the Joseph Paxton Campus and Wirral Continuing Home Education. These would usually be as part of a short-term solution aimed at reintegration to the home school. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list of providers.

Parents and carers will be integral to the planning and implementation of arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs, and the school recognises that their role as carers for their child affords them with a unique insight into their child's health needs.

In addition to making suitable arrangements for students who are unable to attend school, the school recognises the importance of careful and thorough reintegration planning when medical professionals advise that a child can return to school on a part- or full-time basis. As appropriate, the school will convene a multi-agency meeting to plan reintegration, utilising external agencies to ensure that a child is fully supported as they return to school.

The school recognises that prolonged absence can affect emotional wellbeing, friendships and confidence. Where appropriate, pastoral support, Thrive, student check-ins and reintegration activities will be offered.

Where appropriate, safeguarding considerations will remain central throughout periods of absence and all concerns will be managed in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy.

3.2 Supporting Reintegration

Following a period of absence, the school will work with the student, family and medical professionals to develop an individual reintegration plan.

This may include:

- Phased return
- Timetable adjustments
- Rest breaks
- Adapted PE
- Examination arrangements
- Thrive support
- Pastoral check-ins
- Medical care planning
- Regular review meetings

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour & Attitudes). At every review, it will be approved by the Full Governing Body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy
- Administration of Medicines Policy

- SEND Information Report
- SEND Policy