



WOODTHORPE INFANT SCHOOL

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Updated September 2025

Signed: E Bowler (Head Teacher)

Signed: C Shepherd (Chair of Governors)

1. Aims

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 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 and has been based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance *Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, 2013* and the guidance provided by Nottinghamshire County Council: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/home-education/absence-due-to-illness>.

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.

- The child's class teacher, working in conjunction with the SENDCO and Head Teacher will make arrangements for the child's education.
- Suitable arrangements could include an adapted timetable or accessing remote learning (refer to Remote Education policy).
- Decisions will always be made in conjunction with parents'/carers' wishes and with the guidance of outside agencies where relevant. Regular meetings will be held to set up and review provision.
- Children will be reintegrated back into school when appropriate, and may include an adapted curriculum, a modified timetable, and/or support from the SENDCO.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Nottinghamshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Examples of when the local authority would make arrangements are below:

- When a child is deemed to be missing education for an extended period.
- If the child was unable to attend school due to medical reasons for a substantial period of time. The school would make a referral to the local authority health related education team (HRET):
<https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/service.page?id=P36vViUT1ms>.

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 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, 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 the school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND policy