NORTH YORKSHIRE
RURAL SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Supporting Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

At Foston and Terrington Church of England Schools our commitment to promoting sustainability, affirming diversity, embracing community, and inspiring creativity, is rooted in the words of St Paul who wrote, 'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control' (Galatians 5 v 22-23). Our core Christian values, love, joy, patience, and self-control are fostered in the pupils and staff, building an ethos where all can flourish.

At Stillington and Langton Primary Schools our commitment to promoting sustainability, affirming diversity, embracing community, and inspiring creativity is rooted in the core values of love, joy, patience, and self-control. These core values are fostered in the pupils and staff, building an ethos where all can flourish.

Approved by NYRS Federation Governing Board – May 2026

Review due – May 2027

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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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

The Education Act 1996

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

Alternative provision

Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority – North Yorkshire Council.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Schools have a statutory duty to make the necessary arrangements to provide ongoing education for children who, due to their medical condition, are unable to attend school for a period of time.

Schools are responsible for making adjustments so pupils can access education.

Schools are responsible for making a request to the Medical Education Service if a pupil has 15 days of absence, consecutive or accumulative, due to a medical need and school are unable to offer an education the pupil can access.

Schools are responsible for keeping in contact with the pupil and their parents/carers even though they may not be attending school. The pupil remain on the roll of the school and therefore it is crucial the pupil continues to feel a part of the school even though they may not be on site.

If the Medical Education Service (MES) does become involved regular review meetings will be held between school, health, MES and parents/carers. It will be the responsibility of the school to organise these meetings.

If the Medical Education Service (MES) does offer tuition, schools will be responsible for providing the resources needed so the pupil can be taught Maths and / or English as if they were in school full-time. Resources may include text books, set texts, exercise books and any other resources the pupils needs to engage in the education. This may include a laptop, tablet, access to the schools online platform or any other resources needed.

Schools need to ensure they have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) in place for all children with medical needs and completed alongside health and parents/carers.

The school continues to maintain safeguarding responsibilities for any child open to the medical education service. If a pupil does not attend the offer of education made by the MES and the school it is fundamental that school visits the pupil at home as part of the wellbeing check. The MES will inform the schools safeguarding lead of any concerns. It is recommended that school is in regular contact with the pupil's family.

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

- Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.
    - Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school can provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.
    - We will contact parents via telephone/email to share arrangements
    - We will support pupils upon their return to school with the support of our pastoral lead
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Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence when this is 15 days or more

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, North Yorkshire Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

Children referred for support from the MES will be assessed on the following criteria:

- A resident in North Yorkshire
- Of compulsory school age (Term after 5th Birthday to end of Year 11)
- A health condition which is the reason they are unable to attend school
- Currently receiving specialist help and support from a recognised health professional
- Evidence from the health specialist, delivering the help and support which describes what the child or young person can do from an educational perspective

- Children must have been absent from school for 15 days or more (one off or cumulatively) due to their medical condition

- The request has been discussed with parents/carers and signed consent has been obtained from those with parental responsibility or from a young person themselves, where they are considered to be competent and are over 16 years of age

To make a request to North Yorkshire Council's Medical team follow the link: https://pupils.northyorks.gov.uk/medical-education-service

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually. 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
- School Medical conditions