

Applecroft School



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Person Responsible:	Assistant Headteacher
Review Cycle:	Annual
Date of Issue:	October 2025
Review Date:	October 2026

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

1) Introduction:

School Vision

'To be a positive and inspiring community that nurtures each individual and empowers leaders for life'.

School Mission Statement

'Nurturing Potential, Inspiring Minds, Changing Lives' .

School Values

- Ambition & Leadership
- Kindness & Supportiveness
- Respect & Honesty
- Determination & Resilience.

2) 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 the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

3) Legislation and Guidance:

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

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

In Hertfordshire, [Education Support for Medical Absence \(ESMA\)](#) is part of the Integrated Services for Learning (ISL) team and aims to provide support to Hertfordshire schools, which have pupils who are temporarily unable to attend their school programme due to the impact of their medical condition.

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

4) Responsibilities of the School:

Applecroft School will ensure that they are supporting children with medical needs to the best of our ability and have a policy and processes in place to ensure this happens.

Effective multi-agency working helps us to ensure that all pupils who have medical needs receive the support to which they are entitled.

Applecroft School retains the responsibility to provide a suitable education for all its pupils and be able to make reasonable adjustments according to identified needs. A joint package of support will be arranged for the child between the school and Integrated Services for Learning.

The pupil will remain on the school roll, and a named person who will liaise with ESMA for pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs. The named person with regard to this at Applecroft is our SENDCo, Ms Ruth Johnson.

Statutory guidance for schools - [Education for Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School](#) (reference DfE-00393-2014) is available online.

3.1 Initial Arrangements made by the school:

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

Applecroft will work in partnership with all relevant parties including the pupil (where appropriate), parent/carer, school staff, employers and healthcare professionals to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

If a pupil is unable to attend school due to health needs, the SENDCo will arrange a meeting with parents, any medical professionals and if appropriate the local authority to discuss arrangement and agree a suitable plan.

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP) will be written as it is important to ensure that the school knows how to handle a medical emergency with the child and that it is providing the right support for a child on an ongoing basis. This will be continually reviewed and the school will seek advice on this from medical professionals.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school due to medical or health needs, the school will arrange for a Chromebook/laptop to be available so that learning can be completed online and/or a learning pack will be delivered home (depending on the age/attainment level of the child).

There will be regular welfare checks either via telephone or home visits, by the SENDCo and/or DSLs.

When, the pupil is ready to return to school, the School will create an individualised plan alongside the local authority, medical professionals and parents to ensure an achievable transition back into the school environment.

Member(s) of the Senior Leadership Team will decide when it is appropriate to apply this policy to a child/ren.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements:

If the school are unable to make suitable arrangements, Hertfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will effectively need to be 'signed off' school by a medical professional.

There are actually no official 'sick notes' or 'fit notes' for children from Medical professionals; however a referral accepted by ESMA with supporting medical advice from the health professional providing support to the young person is effectively this.

If it is deemed that the arrangements are not suitable and the pupil cannot access education, a referral will be made to the local authority following the process below:

INFORMATION REQUIRED	PROCESS	SUPPORT PROVISION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils of statutory school age resident in Hertfordshire with a medical condition impacting on their ability to access the school programme.• To inform the planning process to ensure support meets CYP's needs- a Care/Treatment Plan is required from the medical practitioner working with the CYP e.g. CAMHS; Consultant; Pediatrician	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referrals via HSR or EHM to relevant ISL Area.• The evidence should specify the impact the medical condition has on the pupil's ability to access education in school.• The first 3 weeks of absence remains school's responsibility from in-house support procedures.• For prolonged support, a current treatment plan and a named medical contact to identify support amendments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advice and training so schools are enabled to develop and embed skills/strategies to manage pupils with health needs.• Liaison with the school and health professionals to advise on a support plan for the CYP.• Provides advice regarding School Policy documentation for pupils with medical needs.• Facilitates teaching support according to health advice.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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 their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

5) Monitoring Arrangements:

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

6) Links to Other Policies:

This policy links to the following policies:

- Attendance Policy,
- Accessibility Plan,
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions,
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.