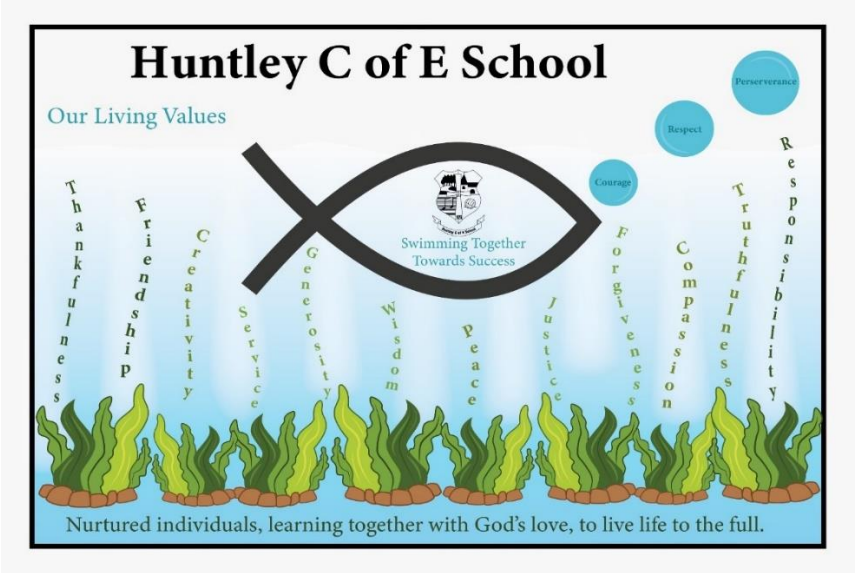
Huntley C of E Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

July 2026

Please read in conjunction with

Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Confidentiality Policy
Intimate Care Policy
First Aid Policy



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Document Reviews and Amendments

Amendment Date	Change to Document	Date of Approval
May 2021	Policy rewritten as out of date and format changed	June 2021
May 2023	Policy ratified at FGM	04/05/23
May 2024	Policy ratified at FGM	05/05/24
July 2026	Policy ratified at FGM	02/07/26

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

We aim to support the Local Authority and ensure 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 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 Huntley as soon as they are well enough.
We understand that we have a continuing role in a child's education whilst they are not attending Huntley and will work with the LA, 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.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2002
- 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'

LOCAL AUTHORITY DUTIES

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Huntley has a duty to support the LA in doing so. The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student.
- Ensure the education students receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into Huntley as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual students in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

DEFINITIONS

Children who are unable to attend Huntley as a result 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: tuition services that act 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.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs, are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend Huntley due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Working with the Governing Body to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting students with health needs.
- Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
- Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet students' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appointing a named member of staff, on a case by case basis, who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, the LA, key workers and others involved in the student's care.

• Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual students.
• Arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs.
• Providing teachers who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student.
• Providing reports to the Governing Body on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of students.
• Notifying the LA when a student is likely to be away from Huntley for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

Huntley will have a named member of staff. E Curtis
They are responsible for:
• Dealing with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
• Actively monitoring student progress and reintegration into school.
• Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
• Liaising with the staff, other education providers and parents to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from Huntley.
• Keeping students informed about Huntley events and encouraging communication with their peers.
• Providing a link between student and their parents, and the LA.

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:
• Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.
• Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
• Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
• Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual students' health needs.
• Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
• Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in Huntley.

Parents are expected to:
• Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at Huntley where possible.
• Work in partnership with Huntley to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
• Notify school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.

• Provide school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
• Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

MANAGING ABSENCES

Parents are advised to contact Huntley on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness. Absences due to illness will be authorised unless Huntley has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness. Huntley will provide support to students who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the student's parents to arrange schoolwork as soon as the student is able to cope with it or part-time education at Huntley. Due consideration will be given to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the student, their family and relevant members of staff.

For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the head teacher will notify the LA, who will take responsibility for the student and their education. Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, Huntley will liaise with the LA to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the students' absence. For hospital admissions, school will liaise with the LA regarding the programme that should be followed while the student is in hospital. The LA will set up a personal education plan (PEP) for the students which will allow school, the LA and the provider of the student's education to work together.

Student attendance will be monitored and registers marked to ensure it is clear whether a student is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at Huntley.

A student unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from Huntley register without parental consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the LA has become responsible for the student's education.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Where a child has a complex or long-term health issue, there will be discussion around their needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the student. The LA expects Huntley to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for reasonable adjustments to be made to where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments. Reasonable adjustments and individual healthcare plans (IHCPs),will be put in place , in accordance with the Medical Conditions Policy. Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned. During a period of absence, Huntley will work with the provider to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes. Whilst a child is away we will work with the LA to ensure they can successfully remain in touch

through newsletters, emails invitations to events, cards/letters from children and staff and TEAMs meetings if appropriate

REINTEGRATION

When a student is considered well enough to return to school, plans to support them will be put in place. Any reasonable adjustments needed will be made to provide suitable access to the curriculum for the student. Children will be warmly welcomed back to school.

Some students will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the student, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

INFORMATION SHARING

It is essential that all information about students with health needs is kept up-to-date. To protect confidentiality, all information-sharing techniques, e.g. staff noticeboards, will be agreed with the student and their parent in advance of being used. All teachers, supply and support staff will be provided with access to relevant information, including high-risk health needs, first aiders and emergency procedures, via the agreed School procedures. Parents will be made aware of their own rights and responsibilities regarding confidentiality and information sharing. This policy and other relevant policies are easily available and accessible. Parents will be asked to sign a consent form which clearly details the organisations and individuals that their child's health information will be shared with and which methods of sharing will be used. When a student is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, school will liaise with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

RECORD KEEPING

In accordance with the Medical Conditions Policy, written records will be kept of all medicines administered to students. Proper record keeping protects both staff and students and provides evidence that agreed procedures have been followed. Red medical administration forms are shared with parents.

TRAINING

Staff will be trained in a timely manner to assist with a student's return to school. Once a student's return date has been confirmed, staff will be provided with relevant training before the student's anticipated return. Healthcare professionals should be involved in identifying and agreeing the type and level of training required. Training will be sufficient to ensure staff are confident in their ability to support students with additional health needs. Parents of students with additional health needs may provide specific advice but will not be the sole trainer of staff.