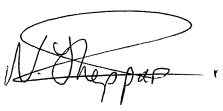
Carisbrooke College

EDUCATION IS OUR CASTLE

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy 2026-27

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Approved By:	Academy Committee
Signature:	
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Review Frequency:	Annual
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Revisions

Policy Area / Section	Updated Policy (2026–27)
Vision and Policy Aims	Expanded into 4 structured aims: (1) Continuity of Learning, (2) Statutory Compliance, (3) Social Inclusion, and (4) Reintegration Framework.
Statutory Guidance and Legislation	Added statutory context for Section 19 (Education Act 1996), Section 100 (Children and Families Act 2014), DfE Attendance Guidance (Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024/25), and Isle of Wight Council Policy.
15-Day Statutory Threshold	Defines an explicit 15-Day Statutory Notification Trigger and Statutory Protocol.
Educational and Remote Learning Provision	Specifies structured home-learning support coordinated by the Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion) and SENDCo.
Local Authority Provision and Alternative Education	Explicitly identifies the Island Learning Centre (Lionheart) and registered home tuition services as the Isle of Wight alternative medical education providers.
Reintegration Framework	Structured into a formal 4-Step Reintegration Phase Table.
Roles and Responsibilities	Re-aligned under clear role headings: HISP MAT and Governors, Headteacher, Designated Health Needs Lead / SENDCo, Class Teachers and Tutors, and Parents/Carers.
Linked Policies	Updated list explicitly citing the Carisbrooke College Accessibility Plan (2025–2028), Supporting Students with Medical Conditions and Medications Policy, and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Vision and Aims:

Carisbrooke College is committed to guaranteeing that pupils unable to access onsite provision owing to medical conditions or health needs maintain access to continuous, high-quality educational delivery. Working collaboratively alongside families, medical practitioners, and the Isle of Wight Local Authority Education and Inclusion Service, the school facilitates timely academic support, structured remote learning arrangements, and comprehensive reintegration pathways.

Introduction and Policy Aims:

At Carisbrooke College, part of the HISP Multi Academy Trust, we believe that medical conditions or ill health must never become a barrier to educational achievement or personal development. Where a student is unable to attend school due to physical or mental health needs, the College works proactively to ensure that suitable, full-time education is maintained.

This policy aims to ensure that:

1. **Continuity of Learning:** Suitable, full-time education is arranged for pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs, tailored to their physical/mental capability.
2. **Statutory Compliance:** Clear protocols govern when the College delivers internal support versus when statutory notification is made to the Isle of Wight Council.
3. **Social Inclusion:** Pupils remain securely connected to their peers, curriculum, and school culture during periods of medical absence.
4. **Reintegration Framework:** A structured, supported reintegration plan facilitates a safe and successful return to school when health improves.

Legislation and Statutory Guidance:

This policy is grounded in statutory legislation and relevant guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Isle of Wight Council:

- **Section 19 of the Education Act 1996:** Section 19 places a legal duty on Local Authorities to arrange suitable education for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion, or otherwise, would not receive it unless arrangements are made.
- **Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014:** Section 100 places a legal duty on governing bodies to support pupils with medical conditions.
- **The Equality Act 2010:** Prohibits discrimination against disabled pupils and requires reasonable adjustments.
- **DfE Health Needs Guidance:** DfE Statutory Guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (2013 / current updates).
- **DfE Attendance Guidance:** DfE Statutory Guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' (2024/2025).
- **Local Authority Guidance:** Isle of Wight Council Education and Inclusion Service policy on 'Education Support for Medical Absence'.

Absence Management and Statutory Thresholds:

For short-term medical absences (under 15 school days), Carisbrooke College coordinates internal educational support directly with the family. For longer absences, explicit statutory notification thresholds apply.

The 15-Day Statutory Notification Trigger

In accordance with DfE statutory guidance and Isle of Wight Local Authority protocols, Carisbrooke College will notify the Isle of Wight Council Education and Inclusion Service as soon as it is clear that a

student will be absent from school due to health needs for 15 consecutive or cumulative school days within an academic year.

Statutory Notification Requirement

STATUTORY PROTOCOL: When a student reaches or is expected to reach 15 days of medical absence, the Designated Medical Health Lead notifies the Isle of Wight Education and Inclusion Service. Medical evidence (e.g., GP letter, consultant notes, CAMHS documentation) is gathered to inform collaborative provision.

Educational Arrangements Made by Carisbrooke College:

Where a student is absent for health reasons but well enough to engage in learning, the College provides comprehensive home-learning support coordinated by the Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion) and SENDCo:

- **Remote Learning Access:** Class teachers provide differentiated work packages, digital resources, and assignments via the school online platform.
- **Regular Communication:** A dedicated contact member of staff maintains weekly check-in calls with the student and family to discuss academic progress and emotional wellbeing.
- **Assessment and Feedback:** Work is regularly assessed by subject teachers, providing feedback to maintain motivation and address misconceptions.
- **Healthcare Plan Integration:** Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs) are established or updated to reflect adjustments, rest breaks, and academic modifications.

Local Authority Provision and Island Learning Centre:

Where Carisbrooke College cannot make suitable educational arrangements (for instance, in cases of severe or prolonged medical conditions), the Isle of Wight Local Authority assumes statutory responsibility for securing alternative education.

On the Isle of Wight, alternative medical education is commissioned through the Island Learning Centre (Lionheart) or registered home tuition services. During any period of alternative provision:

- Maintenance of Roll: The student remains on roll at Carisbrooke College and is not removed from the school register without medical certification and written agreement.
- Collaborative Working: Carisbrooke College maintains active liaison with Lionheart tutors, providing curriculum plans, scheme of work details, and assessment records.
- Inclusion Continuity: The College ensures the student remains included in school communications, newsletter mailings, year group assemblies, and social events.

Reintegration Framework:

Returning to school after a prolonged health absence can be daunting. Carisbrooke College establishes a tailored Reintegration Plan prior to the student's return, co-produced with parents, the student, and medical professionals.

Reintegration Phase	Operational Actions and Support Measures
1. Pre-Return Planning	Multi-agency meeting held to review medical clearance; agree modified timetables, rest break provisions, and physical room access adjustments.
2. Phased Attendance	Gradual increase in daily/weekly hours, starting with core subjects or partial days to build stamina and reduce overwhelm.
3. Pastoral and Academic Support	Assignment of a key worker/peer buddy; customised catch-up plan focusing on core concepts rather than overwhelming homework backlogs.
4. Progress Monitoring	Weekly review meetings with parents and student to evaluate stamina, academic pressure, and emotional wellbeing, adjusting pace as needed.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- HISP Multi Academy Trust and Governors: Oversees statutory compliance, ensures policy implementation, and allocates necessary resources.
- Headteacher: Appoints named medical lead, ensures prompt LA notification at 15 days, monitors provision quality.
- Designated Health Needs Lead / SENDCo: Coordinates educational packages, liaises with Island Learning Centre, oversees IHCPs and reintegration plans.
- Class Teachers and Tutors: Provide differentiated learning materials, assess submitted work, provide encouraging feedback.
- Parents and Carers: Notify school promptly of absence, provide updated medical evidence, collaborate on reintegration.

Links to Other Policies:

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions and Medications Policy
- Carisbrooke College Accessibility Plan (2025–2028)
- Attendance Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy