



## **Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy**

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# 1. Introduction

At **Carisbrooke College**, part of the **HISP Multi Academy Trust**, we believe that every child, regardless of their individual circumstances, should receive a high-quality education that enables them to shape their own future.

Where a student is unable to attend school due to health needs, we ensure that suitable education is provided—either by the College or, where necessary, through the **Isle of Wight Local Authority**. This education will be of a standard comparable to that provided in school and tailored to meet the student’s individual learning, social, and emotional needs.

Under statutory guidance from the **Department for Education (DfE)**, Local Authorities must arrange for suitable full-time (or part-time, when appropriate) education for children who are unable to attend their usual school because of health reasons. This duty applies to all children of compulsory school age, including those on roll at academies, free schools, or independent schools.

In many cases, the College itself will be able to make appropriate arrangements for students with health needs—for example, through flexible timetabling, remote learning, or home-based provision. The Local Authority will only intervene if the education being provided is deemed unsuitable, insufficiently full-time, or not in the child’s best interests.

## 2. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend Carisbrooke College due to health needs.
- Students, staff, and parents/carers understand what the College is responsible for when education is provided by the Local Authority.

## 3. Legislation and Guidance

This policy has due regard to the following legislation and guidance:

- Education Act 1996
- 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 Pupils at School with Medical Conditions”*

## 4. Responsibilities of the College

Carisbrooke College is committed to supporting the academic progress and wellbeing of all students, including those unable to attend full-time due to medical reasons. Decisions regarding alternative provision or modified timetables will always be informed by **medical evidence** and discussed with parents/carers.

### 4.1 If the College Makes Arrangements

The **Headteacher** is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with statutory duties in relation to children with health needs.
- Collaborating with parents/carers, health professionals, and other agencies to develop appropriate educational arrangements.
- Appointing a **named member of staff** responsible for coordinating provision for students with health needs.
- Ensuring all staff are aware of their responsibilities and receive appropriate training.
- Reporting regularly to the **HISP Trust Board of Governors** on the effectiveness of arrangements.

- Notifying the **Isle of Wight Local Authority** when a student is likely to be away from school for a significant period due to health reasons.

The **SENDCo** will:

- Coordinate educational provision for students unable to attend school for medical reasons.
- Monitor pupil progress and plan for reintegration.
- Communicate regularly with parents/carers, health professionals, and the Local Authority.
- Ensure students remain connected to school life through regular contact, updates, and remote learning opportunities.

**Teachers and Support Staff** will:

- Provide appropriately differentiated learning materials to meet individual student needs.
- Mark and assess work regularly and provide constructive feedback.
- Understand confidentiality requirements and respond appropriately to medical information.
- Encourage inclusion and participation wherever possible.

**Parents/Carers** are expected to:

- Notify the College on the first day of absence due to illness.
- Provide relevant medical information and updates.
- Work in partnership with the College to plan appropriate support and reintegration.

#### 4.1a Absence Management

- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless there is a legitimate concern about authenticity.
- For absences under 15 days, the College will liaise with families to provide suitable work or part-time educational arrangements.
- Students will not be removed from roll without medical certification and parental consent, even when the Local Authority assumes responsibility for education.

#### 4.1b Support for Students

- The College will collaborate with the **Isle of Wight Local Authority**, medical professionals, and families to ensure a student's needs are met holistically.
- Individual Health Care Plans (IHCPs) will be used where appropriate.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to support full participation, including flexible timetables, rest breaks, or remote learning.
- Students admitted to hospital will receive education from hospital-based services, with coordination between the College and the hospital education team.

#### 4.1c Reintegration

When a student is well enough to return to school:

- The College will create a **reintegration plan** in collaboration with the Local Authority, parents/carers, and relevant professionals.
- The plan will include a phased return if necessary, ensuring a supportive and welcoming environment.
- Adjustments may include additional support, access to counselling, and ongoing liaison with medical professionals.

- Feedback from the student and parents will be sought to evaluate the reintegration process.

## 4.2 If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If Carisbrooke College cannot make suitable educational arrangements, the **Isle of Wight Local Authority** will take responsibility for ensuring appropriate provision.

In such cases, the College will:

- Work collaboratively with the Local Authority and external providers.
- Share relevant information to ensure continuity of learning and wellbeing.
- Support reintegration through consistent communication and tailored planning.
- Ensure students remain connected with school life through newsletters, online access, and invitations to events.

## 5. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the **SEND Governor** and approved by the **HISP Multi Academy Trust Board of Governors**.

## 6. Links To Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Accessibility Plan
- Attendance Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy