

Wheelwright Lane Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



Approved by: Mrs S Perry

Date: September 2026

**Next review due by:
September 2027**

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- **Suitable education is arranged** for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to medical or health needs, whether this absence is short-term, recurring, or long-term.
- **Pupils, staff, and parents understand the respective responsibilities** of Wheelwright Lane Primary School and Warwickshire Local Authority (LA) when education is provided beyond the school setting.
- **Safeguarding, welfare and educational continuity** remain central at all times, ensuring pupils are safe, supported, and able to make progress.
- The school continues to meet all its duties under the **Education Act 1996**, including ensuring access to full-time education or as much education as a pupil's health condition allows.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the:

- **Education Act 1996** – Sections 19 and 19A (duty to provide education for children unable to attend school due to illness or exclusion).
- **Statutory Guidance: Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE)**.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** – safeguarding responsibilities, safer communication, online safety, and monitoring of pupil welfare.
- Guidance and expectations set out by **Warwickshire Local Authority** regarding education for pupils with medical needs.

This policy also complies with the school's **Funding Agreement, Articles of Association**, and aligns with Wheelwright Lane's **Continuity of Learning (Remote Learning) Policy**.

3. Responsibilities of Wheelwright Lane Primary School

Wheelwright Lane will ensure that children with medical needs who cannot attend school continue to have access to high-quality education, safeguarding support, and a positive connection to school life.

3.1 When Wheelwright Lane Makes Arrangements

Where feasible, the school will make arrangements for pupils unable to attend due to health needs.

3.1.1 Initial Notification and Assessment

- Parents/carers must inform the school as soon as a medical condition impacts attendance.
- Medical evidence may be requested where appropriate (GP, consultant, mental-health practitioner, hospital discharge summary).
- The **SENCo**, in collaboration with senior leaders, will assess what provision is needed and the expected timescale.

3.1.2 Educational Provision

The SENCo will liaise with class teachers and families to provide appropriate learning opportunities. This may include:

- **Learning packs** tailored to current curriculum units.
- **Digital learning activities** through platforms such as TEAMS or Class Dojo.
- **Blended learning**, including:
 - Recorded lessons
 - Live check-ins (not full live lessons unless necessary)
 - Structured tasks linked to classroom work
- **Hospital school work**, where applicable.

Provision will match the learning pupils would receive in school as closely as their medical condition allows.

3.1.3 Communication with Families

- The school will maintain regular contact with parents using **telephone calls, TEAMS, Class Dojo, email, or text** depending on family preference.
- Frequency of check-ins will be agreed based on the child's needs and safeguarding considerations.
- All communication will follow the school's **Safeguarding Policy** and **Online Safety Policy**, ensuring appropriate, professional, and monitored contact.

3.1.4 Safeguarding Responsibilities

Wheelwright Lane will:

- Continue to monitor the pupil's welfare through regular safe and appropriate contact.
- Log significant concerns on the safeguarding system (CPOMS or relevant platform).
- Follow all KCSIE guidance, including safer working practice during remote interaction.
- Engage with social care, Early Help, health services, and other agencies when needed.

3.1.5 Reintegration Support

When a pupil is ready to return:

- The SENCo and class teacher will create a **tailored reintegration plan**.
- Reasonable adjustments (e.g., phased return, reduced timetable, quiet spaces) will be planned where required.
- The school will ensure the pupil remains connected socially during absence through:
 - Class Dojo
 - Messages from peers (overseen by staff)
 - Invitations to suitable school events
 - Safe digital links to class activities

3.2 When the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If the school cannot reasonably provide suitable education due to the complexity or duration of the medical absence, **Warwickshire Local Authority becomes responsible**.

In these situations, Wheelwright Lane will:

3.2.1 Partnership and Communication

- Work constructively with the LA, alternative provision services, medical teams, and families.
- Share relevant information to support the pupil's needs and continuity of care.
- Attend meetings and reviews relating to the pupil's ongoing provision.

3.2.2 Ensuring Effective Provision

Wheelwright Lane will help ensure that:

- The education provided is aligned with the pupil's age, ability, aspirations, and health condition.
- Learning remains consistent with the school curriculum where possible.
- Transition back into school is carefully planned and supported.

3.2.3 Reintegration Planning

Alongside the LA, the school will:

- Develop detailed reintegration strategies tailored to the child.
- Provide consistent curriculum materials to ensure smooth transition.
- Consider reasonable adjustments in line with the **Equality Act 2010**.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

- This policy is reviewed **annually** by the **Headteacher**.
- Updates are approved by the **Full Governing Board**.
- The SENCo will track individual pupil provision, engagement, and reintegration outcomes.

5. Links to Other Policies

This policy forms part of Wheelwright Lane's wider safeguarding and inclusion framework and should be read alongside:

- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**
- **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy**
- **Accessibility Plan**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy**
- **Continuity of Learning / Remote Education Policy**
- **Attendance Policy**
- **Online Safety Policy**