Colton Hills Community School
Headteacher - Ms J Hunter

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Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Those Unable to Attend School Due to Health Needs.

Status	Approved	***Approval***	Full Governing Body
Maintenance	CSIP Committee	***Role(s) responsible***	Headteacher
Date Effective	June 2025	***Date of last reviews***	June 2025
Date of next review	July 2027	***Date withdrawn***	Not withdrawn.
Lead Professional	Deputy Headteacher	***Location of policy***	www.coltonhills.co.uk

Colton Hills Community School

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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

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1. Aims

Ensure that any pupil who is unable to attend school because of physical health needs, mental health needs or medical treatment receives suitable, full-time education (unless their health condition means full-time education would not be in their best interests) in accordance with Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

Promote high levels of attendance, inclusion, safeguarding, educational achievement and wellbeing for pupils with medical needs.

Ensure that pupils with medical conditions are properly supported so that they can access education alongside their peers wherever possible.

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2. Legislation and guidance

Legislation and Guidance

This policy has regard to:

• Education Act 1996 (Section 19)

• Children and Families Act 2014

• Equality Act 2010

• SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2015)

• Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE, December 2015)

• Arranging Education for Children Who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Needs (DfE, 2013)

• Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, August 2024 and subsequent updates)

• Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

• Wolverhampton Local Authority Inclusion Support and Alternative Provision Guidance

3.0 Physical and Medical Needs

- The school recognises that pupils may experience a wide range of physical disabilities or medical conditions that affect attendance, learning, independence, mobility or wellbeing.
- The school will follow the Wolverhampton Graduated Response and SEND procedures to assess need, plan appropriate support, implement agreed provision and review impact through the Assess-Plan-Do-Review cycle.

- **Roles and Responsibilities**

(1) Headteacher

- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring arrangements are in place for pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs.

- **SENDCo**

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- The SENDCo will coordinate provision, liaise with health professionals, monitor provision and support reintegration where required.
- **Attendance Team**
- The Attendance Team will monitor absence patterns and promptly identify pupils whose medical absence may require additional educational provision or referral to external services.
- **Governing Body**
- The Governing Board will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and ensure statutory duties are fulfilled.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

When a child is unable to attend school:
The Attendance Team will make timely contact with parents/carers when a pupil experiences significant medical absence to establish the nature of the absence, anticipated duration and any support required.

- The school will obtain parental consent before seeking information from health professionals and will liaise with relevant services where appropriate.
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- Any planned outside agency referral will be shared and agreed with the parent, child, Pastoral Lead and the Deputy Head Teacher.

Should a referral be made to the Nightingale Centre, written medical evidence

will be needed by a specialist medical professional to state the reason why the child is medically unfit to attend a mainstream provision to support an application to the Local Education Authority.

- The following arrangements could be made:
  - Teaching staff to send work to the Year Leader or SENCo.
  - Work will be sent home to the student.
  - The student will be able to communicate with staff through TEAMS.
  - When requested work can be given to the NHS teacher if required by the hospital school teams.

- How information will be shared with the parent and child:
  - Face to face meeting or telephone discussion with the parent & child before a planned procedure/after a procedure.
  - Create an agreed plan which outlines specific deadlines and share this with relevant staff.
  - Decide a reasonable date for work to be dropped off or collected from school after the procedure when the child is more comfortable.
  - Ensure the child has access to TEAMS to communicate with staff.

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Parent contacts school regarding a child after a significant injury:

- Face to face meeting with the parent and child, before they leave the school site.
- Create a plan which clearly states any agreed plans and/or specific deadlines. Share this information with SLT and relevant staff.
- Any reduced or modified timetable will be a short-term intervention, agreed with parents/carers, reviewed regularly and notified to Wolverhampton Local Authority where required. A reduced timetable will have a clear reintegration plan, review dates and intended outcomes.
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- Ensure any Health and Care Plans are correct and are held on file. Share this information with relevant staff and the school nurse.
- If required agree a designated space within school should the child be unable to access a full timetable.
- Share information with the Business Director to ensure an up to date risk assessment has been included if required.
- Agree a date to review the implemented changes.

How you'll reintegrate pupils back into school:

- Face to face meeting with the parent and child, before they leave the school site.
- Create a plan which clearly states any agreed plans and/or specific deadlines. Share this information with SLT and relevant staff.
- The SENCo will contact any outside agencies currently involved to provide an update to any existing plans that are currently in place.
- Where relevant create a Special Personalised Learning Plan (Modified Timetable) outlining the agreed days and times that the child will attend school. Share this plan with the Local Authority.
- Ensure any Health and Care Plans are correct and are held on file. Share this information with relevant staff and the school nurse.
- If required agree a designated space within school should the child be unable to access a full timetable.
- Share information with the Business Director to ensure an up to date risk assessment has been included if required.
- Agree a date to review the implemented changes.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Wolverhampton Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. This is in alignment with Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 requires local authorities to make arrangements to provide "suitable education at school, or otherwise than at school, for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them". Suitable education is defined

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as “efficient education suitable to the age, ability, aptitude and to any special educational needs”, the child (or young person) may have. The education must be full time unless the local authority determines that it would not be in the best interests of the child or young person, due to their mental or physical health.

Where it becomes clear that a pupil will be absent from school for 15 school days or more (whether consecutive or cumulative) because of health needs, the school will work with Wolverhampton Local Authority to ensure appropriate educational provision is arranged in accordance with Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

The school will not delay referral pending medical treatment or diagnosis where sufficient evidence exists that the pupil cannot access education.

Nightingale Centre

Referral requirements will be determined by Wolverhampton Local Authority and the Nightingale Centre in accordance with their current admissions criteria and evidence requirements.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents 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

Reintegration Following Medical Absence

The school will:

• Develop a personalised reintegration plan.

• Consider reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010.

• Review attendance and wellbeing regularly.

• Liaise with health professionals where appropriate.

• Ensure staff understand any ongoing medical needs and agreed adjustments.

• Support the pupil's academic, social and emotional reintegration.

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• Review support arrangements within an agreed timescale.

4. **Safeguarding**

The school recognises that pupils who are unable to attend school due to medical needs may become more vulnerable to safeguarding risks, social isolation and reduced educational engagement.

All safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.

5. **Attendance**

The school will work proactively with pupils, families, health professionals and Wolverhampton Local Authority to support good attendance wherever attendance is compatible with the pupil's medical needs.

Medical evidence may be requested where appropriate, however the school will work collaboratively with families and apply professional judgement when determining support.

This reflects the DfE attendance guidance now being strongly inspected.

6. Reviewed annually by the SENDCo and Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion) and approved by the Governing Board.

7. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions• Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
  Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives