WATTON WESTFIELD INFANT & NURSERY

WATTON JUNIOR

'A Community of Ambition, Creativity and Kindness'

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on an annual basis.

Reviewed By	Local Governing Body
Meeting at which policy was reviewed and approved	March 2026
Next Review Date	Spring 2027

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1.0 Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs (including physical and mental health)
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2.0 Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996, Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the DfE statutory guidance 'Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school'.

In addition, this policy aligns with guidance provided by our local authority medical needs service policy.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3.0 Responsibilities of the school

The Norfolk County Council Medical Needs Service Policy states the following:

> Schools (including maintained schools, maintained nursery schools, academies, and alternative provision academies) are required by law to make arrangements to support pupils at their school with medical conditions.

Our responsibilities and actions as a school will include:

- Pupils in our schools with a medical condition will be supported to ensure they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- An individual health care plan (IHCP) will be written for any pupil with a long-term medical condition, in line with the schools' *Supporting pupils with medical conditions* policy.
- The schools will make 'reasonable adjustments' to accommodate pupils with medical needs as necessary.
- Governors will monitor that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.
- Governors will monitor that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers so that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

Whilst the schools will request medical evidence as a condition of pupil absence linked to medical needs, the schools will not unnecessarily delay provision while waiting for a specialist's letter if other evidence (e.g., from a GP) is available, to avoid the child missing education.

3.1 Named Person

Each school has a **Named Person** for children with health needs. They are responsible for coordinating the provision of education, maintaining contact with the family, and liaising with the Norfolk County Council Medical Needs Service.

The named person for each of our schools is:

Watton Westfield Nursery & Infant School	**Tracy King**
Watton Junior School	**Sonja Warnes**

3.2 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. Further details regarding these arrangements will include:

- Arrangements and approaches used to deliver the education will be adapted depending on individual circumstances. Means of providing learning may include sending physical resources home e.g. workbooks, paper resources such as worksheets etc, signposting online remote learning provisions or liaising with agencies such as the medical needs team.
- Communications from the school will explore the most appropriate learning provision for the young person.
- Careful consideration will be given to the reintegration of the child back into school. Meetings will be held as appropriate to support reintegration and a key worker will be assigned where it is appropriate to do so.

The Executive Headteacher will have overall responsibility for all arrangements made and the monitoring of them, this will be with support of the SEND team.

3.3 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, and as soon as it is clear a child will be away for 15 days or more (whether consecutive or cumulative in a school year), Norfolk County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The Norfolk County Council Medical Needs Service Policy states:

> Norfolk County Council is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education otherwise. This duty applies to all children and young people who live in the county of Norfolk, regardless of the type or location of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the roll of a school.

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
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4.0 Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Executive Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the local governing board.

5.0 Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Norfolk County Council Medical Needs Service Policy