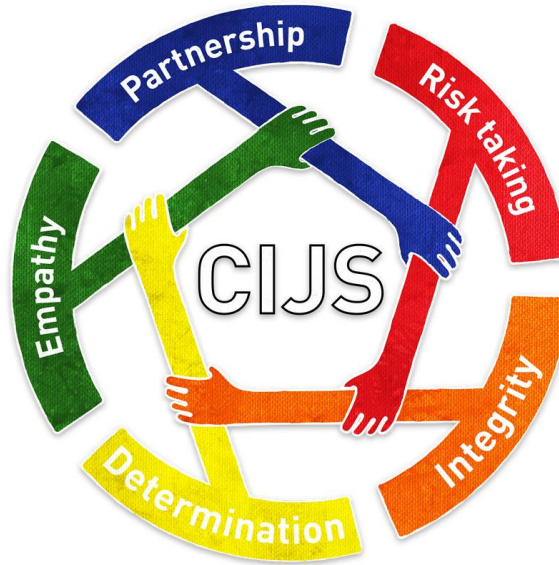


Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School



Chellaston Infant and Junior Schools

Policy owner	Headteacher
Approved by	Governing Body
Approval date	Autumn 2026
Review date	Autumn 2029, or earlier if guidance or local arrangements change

1. Purpose

Chellaston Infant and Junior Schools are committed to ensuring that children who cannot attend school because of physical or mental health needs continue to receive suitable education, as far as their health allows, and are supported to return to school when they are able to do so.

This policy applies to pupils on roll whose health needs prevent, or are likely to prevent, regular attendance. Short-term illness that can be managed through the school's usual absence and catch-up arrangements does not normally require provision under this policy.

2. Legal framework

This policy has regard to the Education Act 1996, the Equality Act 2010, section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, relevant pupil registration requirements, and the Department for Education statutory guidance Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (December 2023).

Under section 19 of the Education Act 1996, the local authority is responsible for arranging suitable education for a child of compulsory school age who, because of illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive it. Where it is

clear that a child will be unable to attend school for 15 days or more because of health needs, whether consecutively or cumulatively across the school year, the school will liaise with the child's home local authority without delay.

3. School responsibilities

The Headteacher and SENDCo will coordinate the school's response. The school will:

- work with the child, parents/carers, relevant health professionals and the local authority to understand the child's needs and agree appropriate support;
- make reasonable adjustments and, where the child is well enough, consider flexible school-based arrangements that enable them to continue accessing education;
- provide appropriate education during shorter periods of absence, proportionate to the child's health, which may include suitable work, remote learning or other individualised arrangements;
- notify and work with the relevant local authority when it is clear that the child is likely to be unable to attend for 15 days or more, or sooner where the school cannot provide suitable education;
- share relevant curriculum information and learning materials with any education provider so that disruption to learning is minimised;
- keep the child connected with school life, where appropriate and in the child's interests;
- continue to monitor attendance, safeguarding, SEND and pastoral needs, including where education is being provided elsewhere; and
- plan and support a timely, safe and successful reintegration into school.

4. Deciding what education is appropriate

Arrangements will be individual to the child. The child's health and ability to engage in education will determine what is reasonable and suitable at any point. There may be periods when a child is too unwell to engage in education at all.

The school will seek and consider relevant medical or professional information where available, but a lack of specific medical evidence will not in itself prevent the school from discussing the case with the local authority. The views of the child and parents/carers will be considered from the outset, in a way that reflects the child's age and understanding.

Where a child has an Individual Healthcare Plan or an Education, Health and Care Plan, these will be considered alongside the arrangements made under this policy. Reasonable adjustments will be made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 where required.

5. When the local authority arranges education

Where the local authority arranges alternative education because of a child's health needs, the school retains an important role and will work constructively with the local authority, provider, family and relevant professionals. The school will:

- provide information about the child's curriculum, attainment, SEND, medical and pastoral needs as appropriate;
- help ensure that the education provided is suitable and as consistent as possible with the child's school curriculum;
- maintain appropriate contact with the child and family;
- participate in reviews of the provision and support changes as the child's health needs change; and
- work with all parties to prepare for reintegration into school as soon as the child is well enough.

6. Reintegration

Reintegration will be planned around the child's needs and health advice. This may include a reintegration meeting, reasonable adjustments, a temporary phased return or part-time timetable, changes to the school day or environment, and pastoral or SEND support. Any temporary part-time timetable will be agreed with parents/carers, regularly reviewed and have a clear plan towards increased attendance as the child's health allows.

7. Safeguarding and attendance

The school remains responsible for safeguarding pupils on roll and will maintain appropriate contact and oversight while a child is unable to attend. This may include phonecalls and home visits from the Welfare Team or other staff from school. Any safeguarding concern will be managed in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Attendance will be recorded in accordance with current statutory attendance requirements and the circumstances of the provision in place.

8. Monitoring and related policies

The Headteacher will review the effectiveness of arrangements for individual pupils and this policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if statutory guidance, local authority arrangements or school practice changes.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions / Administration of Medication Policy;
- Attendance Policy;
- SEND Policy and Accessibility Plan;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; and
- Remote Education and Educational Visits procedures, where relevant.