



Growing with hope; serving with compassion; transforming with humility.

Frisby C of E Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Date of Review: February 2026

Next Review: February 2029

Aims

Frisby C of E Primary School is committed to ensuring that every child receives high-quality education, even when ill-health prevents attendance at school.

In line with the statutory responsibility placed on Leicestershire County Council (LCC) under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, LCC must arrange suitable education for children of compulsory school age who cannot attend school because of health needs and would not receive suitable education without such provision.

Our aims are to:

- Support LCC so that children absent for medical reasons receive appropriate and timely education.
- Maintain a strong educational, pastoral and social connection between pupils and our school during periods of absence.
- Work collaboratively with parents, health professionals, LCC teams, and other agencies to plan and deliver provision that meets each child's needs.
- Reinstate children into school as soon as they are medically able, following best-practice guidance.

This policy follows the 2023 statutory guidance *Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs*.

Legislation and Guidance

- Education Act 1996, Section 19
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Children and Families Act 2014, Section 100
- DfE (2023) Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs
- DfE (2015) Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

Definitions

A child may be unable to attend school due to:

- physical illness or injury
- mental health conditions
- chronic or progressive medical conditions
- terminal illness
- emotional/psychological difficulties.

Alternative provision may include:

- Hospital education
- Home tuition commissioned by LCC
- Medical Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)

Responsibilities of Leicestershire County Council

LCC must arrange suitable full-time education (or the amount the child's health allows) for pupils who:

- Cannot attend school for 15 or more days (consecutive or cumulative) due to health needs
- Would not otherwise receive suitable education

LCC must:

- Begin provision as soon as reasonably possible, and no later than day 6 of absence once it is clear the child will miss 15+ days
- Liaise with medical professionals and families to avoid delay in arranging provision
- Ensure education is of equivalent quality to mainstream schooling
- Consider the child's age, aptitude, ability and SEND needs in all arrangements
- Review provision regularly with the school, family and agencies
- Publish a clear policy and identify a named LCC officer responsible for these children

Named Officer:

Leicestershire County Council publishes contact details for its named officer responsible for children with health needs on the LCC website.

The LA must *not*:

- Withhold provision on cost grounds
- Apply rigid lists of medical conditions
- Delay provision by demanding unnecessary ongoing evidence

Responsibilities of Frisby C of E Primary School

The school will:

Initial support

- Provide education for short-term illnesses (e.g., flu, infections) using normal school processes.
- Implement reasonable adjustments so children with medical conditions can attend where possible, in line with statutory guidance.

Referral to LCC

We will contact LCC when:

- It becomes clear the child will be absent for 15 days or more (consecutive or cumulative) because of health needs
- The school can no longer maintain suitable provision independently

The school will provide:

- Attendance information (required under the Pupil Registration Regulations 2006)
- Relevant curriculum information, resources, and assessment data
- Participation in planning meetings with LCC, families and healthcare services

Ongoing communication

The school will help the child remain connected to school life through:

- Digital learning platforms
- School newsletters and updates
- Class emails/messages
- Invitations to appropriate school events

Remote and digital education

Where appropriate, we may provide remote learning. Digital learning must complement, not replace, agreed face-to-face provision.

Working in Partnership

Effective collaboration is essential. The school will work closely with:

- Parents/carers
- LCC (including SEND, Education Welfare, CAMHS and other services)
- Medical professionals (GPs, consultants, CAMHS clinicians, hospital teams)
- Alternative provision providers

Children will be involved in decisions in a way appropriate to their age and maturity.

Medical Evidence

LCC and the school should use medical evidence to identify the most appropriate provision. Medical practitioner evidence (e.g., GP or consultant) should not be repeatedly requested unnecessarily.

Where evidence is not immediately available, the school and LA may liaise with medical professionals to prevent delay in education provision.

Flexibility and Adjustment

Provision will be flexible and responsive to changes in a child's health. LCC must not use inflexible rules or condition lists to determine eligibility for support.

Reasonable adjustments may include:

- Reduced or personalised timetables
- Rest breaks
- Access to alternative rooms
- SEND support or assessments
- Use of an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)

Education Provided

Education arranged by LCC must:

- Be high quality

- Match as far as possible the curriculum the child would receive in school
- Prepare the pupil for eventual reintegration
- Support wellbeing and pastoral needs as well as academic learning

Children should be able to access appropriate qualifications, including exam arrangements and access adjustments where needed.

Hospital Education

If a child is in hospital:

- Early liaison will occur between hospital teachers, the school, and LCC
- A personal education plan will be developed
- The school will provide curriculum information and support reintegration after discharge

Reintegration

When a child is ready to return to school:

- An individual reintegration plan will be created with LCC, parents, and health professionals
- A named member of staff will coordinate the process
- A phased return will be used where appropriate
- Gaps in learning will be addressed with targeted support
- Reasonable adjustments will be put in place as required under equality legislation

Children will be welcomed back warmly, with emphasis on reconnecting socially and emotionally.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Head Teacher.

Links to Other Policies

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy