



# Timothy Hackworth Primary School

‘Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.’

## Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School

CRC Article 28: All children have the right to a good quality education.

CRC Article 29: All children have the right to be the best that they can be.



Date policy approved/adopted	<b>March 2026</b>
Next review date	<b>March 2027</b>
Approved by	<b>Governing Body</b>
Head Teacher Signature	<i>L. Boulton</i>
Governor Signature	<i>P. Crook</i>

## **Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy**

**Date of Policy:** March 2026

**Review Date:** March 2027

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan;
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy;
- Equalities Information and Objectives;
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Appendices.

### **Our Timothy Hackworth School Vision**

May our Rights Respecting School be a happy place for us all to learn; where every one of us is valued and safe in our Timothy Hackworth School Family. May we all be the best that we can be by making a positive difference to each other, our community in Shildon and the wider world in which we all live.

### **Mission Statement (written by children):**

We would like our school, which reflects British Values, to be at the heart of the community, sharing, supporting and learning together with everyone as equals. Our children have the right to high quality learning experiences to help them to be the best that they can be.

We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

## **Values**

Ours is a happy school with high hopes and ambitions for all our children and we welcome working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that everything is done in the best interests of the children at all times.

All of our staff take their responsibility towards the children seriously and they strive to help each child reach their full potential as global citizens physically, emotionally, socially and academically. We are fully committed to the [CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD](#).

To us, every child is unique and precious and we endeavour to foster a high level of motivation towards learning and behaviour. We are committed to the basic skills of English and Maths.

At all times, we aim to centre the teaching in an atmosphere of mutual respect and personal respect. A high quality education is [the right of every child](#), and at Timothy Hackworth Primary School, we embrace that responsibility and strive to achieve it for all our pupils.

## **Equalities Information**

This policy should be read in conjunction with our school's 'Equalities Policy Statement', 'Equalities Objectives Summary' and 'Equalities Information and Objectives'.

We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in respect to age (as appropriate), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation (LGBTQ+).

## **Introduction**

A number of pupils may experience difficulties in maintaining continuity of education because of health issues at some time during their school career. These issues may be short or long-term, to which Timothy Hackworth Primary School needs to respond in order to ensure that all pupils access their statutory entitlement to education.

We are committed to promoting inclusion, equality of opportunity and continuity of education for pupils with health needs. Education is the right of every child.

This policy applies to pupils who are temporarily unable to attend school because of illness, injury, anxiety and identified mental health problems.

The purpose of this policy is to reflect and to conform to Durham County Council's statutory duties in accordance with:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

## **Aims**

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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the Local Authority (LA).

## **Shared Roles and Responsibilities**

Ensuring access to education for pupils with health needs is the responsibility of the Local Authority and Timothy Hackworth Primary School.

### **The Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that:**

- there is a named officer with responsibility for the coordination of education for pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs;
- pupils with health needs are not at home or in hospital without access to education for more than six working days. Pupils with recurrent illness should have access, as far as possible, from the first day of absence;
- procedures are in place for early identification of pupils needs;
- there is close liaison between pupils, their families, their school and other agencies.

**The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.**

### **Support and Alternative Arrangements provided by the Local Authority:**

- information, advice and support to pupils, parents/carers, schools and other agencies about pupils with health needs (physical, emotional and mental);
- teaching, where appropriate, in Local Authority venues, at home or in hospital;
- support towards school re-integration;
- information about the provision the Education Health Needs Team can offer;
- input into multi-agency meetings;
- training for schools and other agencies.

### **Timothy Hackworth Primary has a responsibility to:**

- have a clear policy and a named person responsible for pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs;

#### **The named person at Timothy Hackworth Primary School is**

**Mrs. K. Kozlowski**

- nominate a governor responsible for reviewing the procedures that apply to educating pupils with health needs;

#### **The named governor at Timothy Hackworth Primary School is Cllr. S. Townsend.**

- ensure that the pupil remains on the school roll;
- establish guidelines for school staff on maintaining meaningful contact with pupils and parents when a pupil is absent through health needs;
- seek confirmation of ill health and make reasonable adjustments to maintain continuity of access to education;
- refer pupils to the Education Health Needs Team if the pupil is, or is likely to be, absent from school for more than 15 school working days because of health needs. When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the child's absence from school;
- work in partnership with the Education Health Needs Team to provide information about the pupil's strengths and needs;
- work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child;

- collaborate with the Local Authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum;
- provide the Education Health Needs Team with robust work plans to ensure continuity of progress;
- facilitate appointments with key teachers and/or subject specialists;
- share information in order to maintain an up-to-date record of the pupil's progress;
- regularly review the provision offered, along with the Local Authority, to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education;
- work with the Local Authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services when a child has complex or long-term health issues, to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence);
- liaise regularly with the Education Health Needs Team to monitor provision, review progress and support reintegration;
- ensure pupils have access to statutory assessments;
- ensure that the needs of pupils with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) are met;
- ensure that the views of pupils and parent/carers are taken into account;
- maintain a regular review system;
- plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources;
- enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits;
- create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence;
- make reasonable adjustments to maintain good attendance and progress once the child has resumed attendance at school.

**The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- working with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs;

- working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children;
- ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon;
- appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care;
- ensuring the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils;
- arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs;
- providing teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil;
- providing reports to the Governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils;
- notifying the Local Authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

#### **Teachers are responsible for:**

- understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs;
- designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason;
- understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training;
- ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs;
- ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency;
- keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

#### **Parents are expected to:**

- ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible;
- work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child;

- notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay;
- provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's health needs;
- attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed and revised annually. The named person in school will report annually to the Governing Body. This report will contribute to Timothy Hackworth Primary School's self-evaluation of our provision for pupils with health needs. County-wide data is available from the Education Health Needs Team.