

# **FOXES PIECE SCHOOL**



## **Supporting Pupils Unable to Attend School Due to Medical Needs**

**Approved at PF&P Committee May '26**

**Review May '27**

## **1. Purpose**

This policy sets out how Foxes Piece School will meet its statutory duties to support pupils with medical needs, including those unable to attend school due to physical or mental health conditions.

Foxes Piece School recognise that pupils with medical needs have the same right to education as their peers and should receive suitable education as soon as it is clear they will be absent for a prolonged period.

## **2. Legal Framework**

This policy is based on the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Children and Families Act 2014 (Section 100) – duty to support pupils with medical conditions
- Education Act 1996 (Section 19) – duty on local authorities to provide suitable education for pupils unable to attend school
- DfE statutory guidance:
  - Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school
  - Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (2023)
- Equality Act 2010 – duty to make reasonable adjustments and avoid discrimination

## **3. Principles**

Foxes Piece School will follow DfE expectations that:

- Pupils should receive as full an education as their health allows
- Support should be individualised, flexible, and regularly reviewed
- A “support-first” approach will be taken, with sensitive and non-judgemental engagement with families
- Absence due to medical needs must be properly authorised and supported, not penalised
- Education provision should begin as soon as absence is identified, not delayed

## **4. Responsibilities**

### **4.1 Governing**

Ensure the school has a compliant medical needs policy

- Ensure arrangements are in place to support pupils with medical conditions
- Have regard to DfE statutory guidance

### **4.2 Headteacher**

- Ensure implementation of this policy
- Ensure appropriate staff training and resources
- Liaise with the local authority where absence becomes prolonged

### **4.3 SENCo/Inclusion Lead**

- Coordinate provision for pupils with medical needs
- Develop and review Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)
- Act as key liaison with families, health professionals, and external services

### **4.4 Class Teachers**

- Provide accessible and differentiated learning
- Maintain regular contact with the pupil
- Monitor progress and engagement

### **4.5 Parents/Carers**

- Notify the school of medical absence as early as possible
- Provide medical evidence where appropriate
- Engage with agreed provision

### **4.6 Local Authority**

- Provide suitable full-time education where a pupil is absent for **15 days or more** due to health needs

## **5. Identification and Early Intervention**

- The school will act early where medical absence is identified or anticipated
- Support will be considered without waiting for a formal diagnosis where appropriate

- Medical evidence may be requested for longer-term absence

## **6. Educational Provision**

### **6.1 General Expectations**

Provision will be:

- Suitable to the pupil's age, ability, attitude, and health condition
- Full-time where possible, or part-time where health prevents full engagement

### **6.2 Types of Provision**

Depending on need, provision may include:

- Remote learning (online lessons)
- Work packs or online platforms
- Home tuition
- Adapted curriculum (typically core subjects: English, Maths, Science)

### **6.3 Continuity of Education**

The school will:

- Ensure minimal disruption to learning
- Coordinate with external providers
- Maintain curriculum alignment where possible

## **7. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)**

Where appropriate, the school will implement an IHP that includes:

- Medical condition and impact on learning
- Required adjustments and support
- Medication and emergency procedures
- Named staff responsibilities

## **8. Attendance and Recording**

- Absence due to medical needs will be authorised where appropriate evidence is provided

- The school will monitor attendance in line with DfE guidance
- Medical absence will not be treated as unauthorised absence where valid

## **9. Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

The school will:

- Ensure ongoing safeguarding for pupils not attending school
- Provide pastoral and mental health support
- Maintain regular contact (at least weekly unless agreed otherwise)

## **10. Reintegration**

The school will:

- Plan a phased return where needed
- Make reasonable adjustments (e.g. reduced timetable, rest breaks)
- Work closely with health professionals and families

Reintegration will be gradual and responsive to medical advice.

## **11. Partnership Working**

The school will work collaboratively with:

- Parents/carers
- Healthcare professionals
- Local authority services
- Alternative provision providers

## **12. Unacceptable Practice (DfE Guidance)**

The school will not:

- Prevent a pupil from accessing education due to medical needs
- Penalise or pressure pupils for health-related absence
- Ignore medical advice or fail to make reasonable adjustments

- Delay support unnecessarily

### **13. Monitoring and Review**

- Individual cases reviewed at least half-termly
- Policy reviewed annually or in line with updated DfE guidance

### **14. Related Policies**

- Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan