HELSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASPIRATION · AMBITION · ACHIEVEMENT

SUPPORTING CHILDREN UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL DUE TO MEDICAL HEALTH NEEDS POLICY

SLT Responsible Person: Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion

Date of Policy: November 2026

Date to be reviewed: November 2027

Published: Website/Staff Intranet

To be read in conjunction with: Health and Safety Policy (TPAT)
Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (TPAT)
SEND Policy (TPAT)
Managing Medical Conditions Policy (TPAT)
Secondary Attendance Policy (TPAT)

1. Aims

1.1 Helston Community College aims to support the Local Authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows.

1.2 Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision, on the guidance of medical professionals or CAMHS. We recognise that, whenever possible, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into Helston Community College as soon as they are well enough and guidance from medical professionals suggests this is feasible. We understand that we have a continuing role in a child's education whilst they are not attending the College and will work with the Local Authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive an appropriate level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

1.3 This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend Helston Community College due to health needs.
- Students, staff and parents/carers understand what the College is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Local Authority.

2. Legislation and guidance

2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996:
- DfE: *Arranging Education for Children Who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Needs* (December 2023)
- DfE: *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions*
- Cornwall Council: *Supporting Children who are Unable to Attend School because of Medical and/or Health Needs*
- Cornwall Council Guidance on Reduced Timetables (Part-Time Attendance)

2.2 This policy complies with our Funding Agreement and Articles of Association.

3. The responsibilities of the College

3.1 Cornwall Council gives guidance and advice on supporting children with medical conditions to get an education whilst in school:
Physical disability or medical needs - Cornwall Council
In addition, Cornwall Council has a policy for children who cannot attend school because of medical/health needs:
Supporting children who are unable to attend school because of medical and / or health needs - Cornwall Council

It describes the statutory responsibilities of the Local Authority and the school with respect to these children.

These policies detail:

- The procedures to be followed whenever a school is notified that a student has a medical condition.

- The role of Individual Healthcare Plans, and who is responsible for their development, in supporting students at College with medical conditions.

3.2 The Headteacher of each school is responsible for ensuring that policies, plans, procedures and systems are properly and effectively implemented.

Within individual schools, the SENDCo will support the effective implementation of IHCPs.

4. Where arrangements are needed to support children

4.1. Initially, the College will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend College, in line with guidance from Medical Practitioners involved in the child's care.

4.2. Reduced timetables will only be considered where full-time attendance is not in the child's best interests due to medical needs. Any reduced timetable will:
- be supported by relevant medical advice specifying the amount of education that the child is able to access;
- have parent/carer agreement;
- have a clear review date;
- be monitored by the College;
- aim to return the student to full-time education as soon as appropriate.

4.3. The SENDCo will be responsible for:

a. Ensuring that parent/carer views and the views of the child and medical professionals are taken into account to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children with healthcare needs. This may be via the Pupil Support Plan process.
b. Working with the family and medical practitioners to collect the appropriate evidence from medical professionals which state the student cannot access education due to their long-term illness. This may include a review of the type of provision which is most appropriate to meet the child's needs.
c. Developing and monitoring individual healthcare plans (with input, as required, from medical practitioners and/or the college's Healthcare Champion).
d. Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet students' health needs are fully understood and acted upon by all relevant staff and that sufficient staff are suitably trained.
e. Ensuring cover arrangements in case of staff absence or staff turnover to ensure all staff are aware of the child's needs and IHCP.
f. Liaising with the Educational Visits Coordinator in supporting visit leaders in completing risk assessments for College visits, trips, and other College activities outside of the normal timetable.
g. Liaising with the College senior leadership team, education providers and parents/carers to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from College, which is in line with the advice and guidance of medical practitioners.
h. Ensuring that part-time or online packages are available to support children's learning where appropriate and in line with medical advice.
i. Notifying the Local Authority when a student is expected to miss, or has missed, 15 school days or more (continuous or cumulative) because of medical or health needs.

j. Keeping students informed about College events and encouraging appropriate communication with their peers.
k. Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
l. Providing reports to the Local Monitoring Committee on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of students.
m. Where appropriate, the College may seek advice from Cornwall's Physical Disability and Medical Needs Advisory Team regarding reasonable adjustments, inclusion and curriculum access.

5. Local Authority Arrangements

5.1. If the College cannot make suitable arrangements, and in line with medical advice, Cornwall Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

5.2. The College will not remove a child with medical issues from its roll unless:

a. A medical practitioner has certified that they are unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend College before ceasing to be of statutory education age.
b. Neither the child nor parent/carer has indicated the intention to continue to attend the College, after ceasing to be of statutory education age.
c. The parent/carer has written to the College to inform the College that other arrangements are in place for the child's education.

5.3. Where a child is taken off roll, the College must inform the Local Authority of the child's destination. The Local Authority will monitor all children who are Electively Home Educated.

5.4. In cases where the Local Authority makes arrangements, the College will:

a. Work constructively with the Local Authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
b. Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required.
c. Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into College successfully.
d. When reintegration is anticipated, work with the Local Authority to:
    i. Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the College, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in College as far as reasonably possible.
    ii. Enable the student to stay in touch with College life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to College events or internet links to resources from their lessons).
    iii. Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to College.
    iv. Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.