Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Name of Head Teacher	Mrs Laura Park
Name of Chair of Governors	Dr Vivienne McCabe
Date	Sept 2026
Next review date	Sept 2027

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

At St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School our mission is to educate the whole child through the Gospel values of Christ.

Section 1 – 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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

Section 2 – Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996.
It is also based on guidance and information provided by our local authority, Portsmouth City Council.

Section 3 – The responsibilities of the School

3.1 – School Arrangements

Initially the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. These will include:

- A named member of the senior leadership team liaising with the class teacher and parents/carers to understand how best to work in the individual situation.
- School work being set in a way that best meets the needs of the child eg paper packs, school resources at home, digital learning.
- Efforts to ensure that the remote learning mirrors the learning in class.
- Parents being consulted regularly on the arrangements.
- Opportunities to involve the child in the wider life of the class eg invites to class events, newsletters, involvement in live lessons.
- A range of options considered for the reintegration of the pupil back in to school. These may include short visits, part time timetables or phased returns.
- Support for the child upon their return to school, which may include support with friendships, emotional support or practical support and may be either formal (ELSA, interventions etc.) or informal (named adults, timetables, chats)

3.2 – Local Authority Arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Portsmouth Local Authority, will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.
In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the chid can be reintegrated back in to school successfully.

- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
    - Plan for consistent provision during and after the periods of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
    - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (eg through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from school.)
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

Section 4 – Monitoring Arrangements

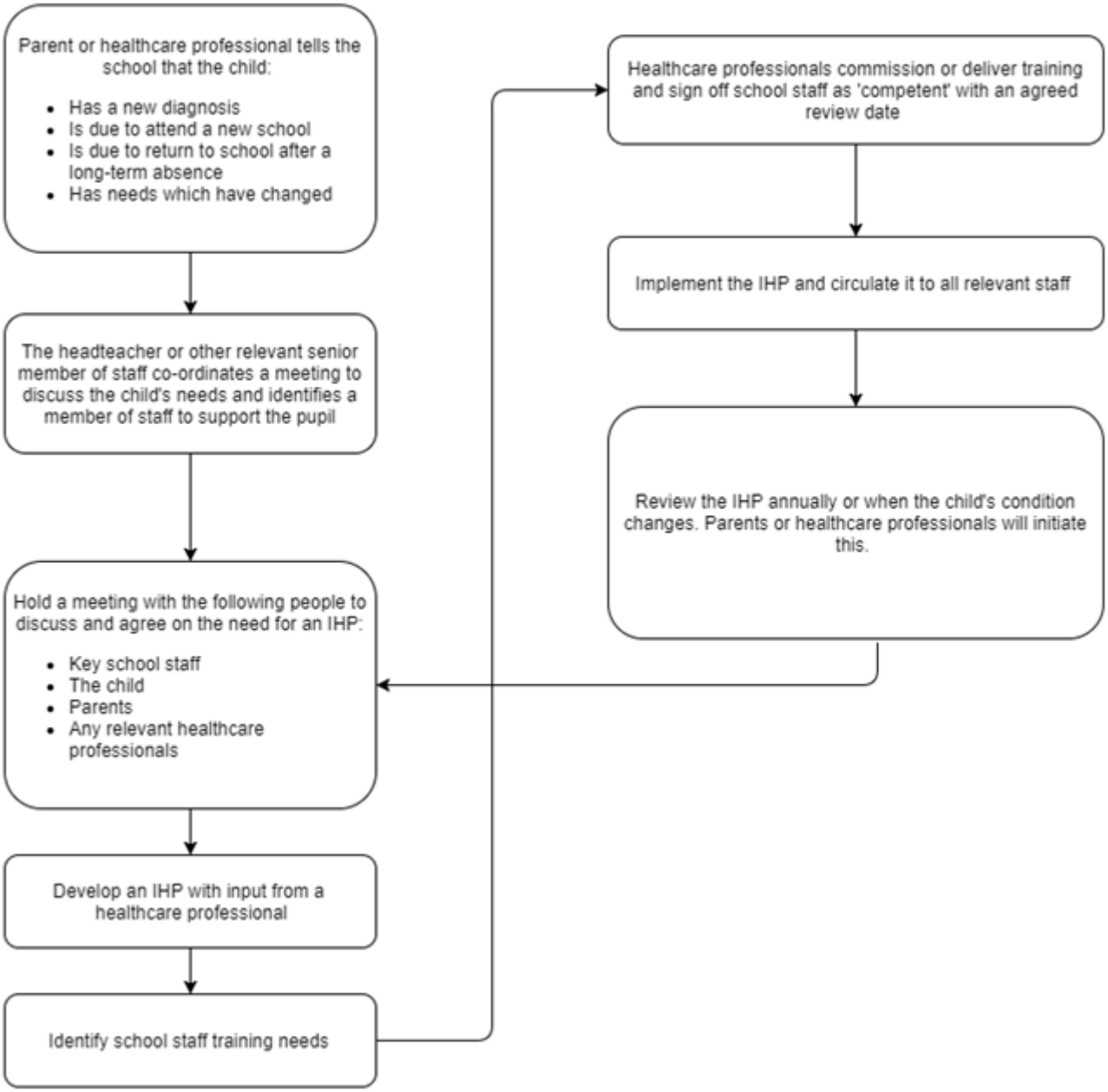
This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher. At every review it will be approved by the Full Governing Body.

Section 5 - Links to other Policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Appendix 1:


Parent or healthcare professional tells the school that the child:
Has a new diagnosis
Is due to attend a new school
Is due to return to school after a long-term absence
Has needs which have changed
The headteacher or other relevant senior member of staff co-ordinates a meeting to discuss the child's needs and identifies a member of staff to support the pupil
Hold a meeting with the following people to discuss and agree on the need for an IHP:
Key school staff
The child
Parents
Any relevant healthcare professionals
Develop an IHP with input from a healthcare professional
Identify school staff training needs
Healthcare professionals commission or deliver training and sign off school staff as 'competent' with an agreed review date
Implement the IHP and circulate it to all relevant staff
Review the IHP annually or when the child's condition changes. Parents or healthcare professionals will initiate this.