

Medical conditions and absence

Help school understand the health need, its functional impact and what support may help.

Your role

Keep school informed, report absence using the school's process, share relevant barriers early and work with the school on agreed actions. Legal rules differ across the UK, so use the official guidance for your nation.

Describe impact, not just diagnosis

- What symptoms affect mornings, concentration, mobility, continence, fatigue, pain, eating, medication or recovery?
- Are there treatment days, hospital appointments or predictable flare-ups?
- What signs should staff know about and what should happen if symptoms worsen in school?

Build a joined-up plan

- Ask who coordinates medical information in school.
- Share relevant clinician advice when available and consented.
- Discuss reasonable adjustments, rest, medication arrangements, access to toilets, reduced transitions or catch-up arrangements where appropriate.
- If absence is likely to be prolonged, ask school/local authority what education arrangements apply in your area.

Review

- Agree how missed learning will be managed without overwhelming the child.
- Review attendance and health together - a higher attendance percentage is not useful if the plan is medically unsafe or unsustainable.

Important

- This leaflet is general information, not medical advice. Follow clinical advice for your child's condition and use official national/local guidance for education duties.

Use this leaflet as a conversation starter. It is general information, not legal, medical or safeguarding advice. If you are worried about immediate safety, use the appropriate local emergency or safeguarding route.