



Sussex Road School
Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Aims

- To ensure suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- To enable pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#), and has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/pupil-referral-unit-and-alternative-provision/kent-health-needs-education-service>

The School 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, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that the school has a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not the school and will work with the Local Authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include:

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses
- Chronic illnesses
- Required Isolation periods i.e., COVID19 restrictions

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical PRUs: these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

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Educational Arrangements

Where the school makes arrangements

Where the school becomes aware that a pupil is unwell and their attendance has ceased or reduced to 50% or less, we have a duty to provide work to the pupil at home for 15 days.

The SENCo, together with the class teacher, will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. They will compile packs of appropriate tasks or supply workbooks to be completed at home and make arrangements for these to be marked once they have been returned to School, with relevant feedback provided to the child.

Where pupils with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) develop additional health needs, the school will need to call an interim review meeting to agree the referral.

We will maintain a dialogue with families working together to reintegrate pupils into the education setting as soon as possible.

Where the local authority makes arrangements

Where the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, or it becomes apparent that the illness is going to last longer we will make a referral to the Kent Health Needs Education Service (KHNES). See Appendix A for their Criteria. KCC will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The support package provided by them may include some of the following types of support:-

- Home Tuition.
- Attendance at a base or satellite.
- Individual tuition in school.
- A combination/bespoke package as agreed by all parties.

All KHNES programmes will support the home school in maintaining links with the pupil and their family to facilitate a successful reintegration.

While supported by the KHNES, pupils will be dual rolled so any absence will be borne by the Service and not the school's attendance figures.

Further information may be found at https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/30135/pupil-medical-referral-policy.pdf

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 child can be reintegrated into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period 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 (e.g., through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to facilitate the return to school

This policy is subject to any changes made by the Local Authority to their offer.

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Appendix A

[Referring to KHNES for support:](#)

KHNES believe that all young people are best educated in full time education at their main school/provider. The Kent Health Needs Education Service is intended to be a short-term educational support service for pupils with health-based barriers to accessing this full-time education. It is designed to:

- Provide education, support and advice to enable continuity of education in cases where young people's access to full time education is compromised by health needs.
- Work towards a programme of reintegration into home school provider (or onward provision) as soon as is possible and appropriate.

When allocating provision KHNES operates to the following broad guidelines (in line with the principles of 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health need' DFE 2013). This states that 'hard and fast rules' should not apply. Please note that, in cases of referrals under the broad coverage of mental health, KHNES accesses a NELFT employed NHS Mental Health Nurse and offers of education and support are supported by this professional's advice. KHNES' key principles are:

- The primary need in all cases must be a health need (including where a behavioural need or concern is as a result of a health need). All young people referred must have a fully completed Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP).
- Where there is a perceived mental health need, KHNES consults NELFT support to ensure decisions over provision are appropriate.
- Every case referred to KHNES is considered on its own merits and provision/advice and support will be allocated in the best interests of the young people referred. Broadly this means that KHNES will always work towards re-integration with home school, or onward provision as soon as possible, and attempt to allocate provision that will enable this to happen as quickly as possible.

[Referral Criteria:](#)

The following are accepted as broad criteria for referral. KHNES' referral panel will then consider applying support in one of our designated forms: KHNES aims to support young people that broadly meet the following statements with the aim of reintegrating fully to the referring school or supporting towards onward provision as soon as possible and appropriate.

- Medical needs are such that the young person has missed 15 days of schooling (consecutive or cumulative).
- The young person's health has significantly reduced their ability to access their home school full time, and this is reflected in their attendance record.
- A senior medical professional (such as a consultant, mental health practitioner etc.) is providing support, diagnosis and/or advice. This applies to pupils whose cases are managed by hospitals within Kent as well as in more specialist hospitals in London and across the country; **Note:** GP referral is not sufficient.
- A change in medical advice or medication has meant that a young person requires increased medical review, intervention, support or flexibility to allow them to attend education full time.
- Health need can mean either physical health need, or mental health condition meaning it is disrupting the young person's ability to attend school full time.
- A young person has been discharged from tier 4 Mental Health Service services and requires on-going support before full time re-integration to school.
- When further dialogue post-referral is required between KHNES and schools there may be the need for further discussion with medical professionals to ensure correct decisions are reached in the best interest of all young people.

[Notes regarding young persons with an EHCP, or a special educational need:](#)

- KHNES aims to support young people that have a health need preventing access to education. If the young person also has an EHCP or are en-route towards allocation of an EHCP the case will be considered following the same protocol as all cases based on the individual situation.
- If an EHCP is already in place and an additional health need arises which overrides the priority need previously designated on the EHCP, an early review meeting with County SEN must be conducted due to the possibility of a short-term change of educational provision. We will require minutes of this meeting and proposed time scales for re-integration to the onward provision. We will also require a copy of the

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provision plan that is drafted in order to consider this case fully. We will allocate provision where appropriate that supports education with the aim of reintegrating fully to the referring provider or supporting towards onward provision as soon as possible and appropriate.

It should be noted however that KHNES is not a specialist provision and will not always be able to provide appropriate support when an EHCP has named a specialist provision. It should also be noted that KHNES cannot be named on an EHCP as a main provider of education.

- KHNES' provision will be considered if the main condition preventing full time access to named educational provision is a health condition as defined in the referral criteria
- KHNES' provision will not normally be considered appropriate if the main cause of inability to access educational provision is not a health condition, particularly if the condition is identified as neuro-developmental or is covered under the broad definition of 'SEN'.
- KHNES will support completion of 'Appendix 2' whilst pupils are in receipt of support, with the aim of reintegrating fully to the referring school, or supporting towards onward provision as soon as possible and appropriate

Please see also <http://www.khnes.kent.sch.uk/>

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Appendix B

[Overview of types of KHNES support available:](#)

Type of Support	Details
Advice & Guidance	<p>A member of the KHNES team will provide advice and guidance to school staff on how to support and accommodate the young person's need.</p> <p>The exact staff member, and the advice will depend upon the needs of the young person.</p>
Outreach Support	<p>KHNES will provide an outreach worker for re integration support for the young person in the school environment.</p> <p>The exact nature of the support will depend upon the individual circumstances, needs of the pupil and based on communication with the referring school.</p>
Hub Based Provision	<p>Attendance is designed to be in a format that suits pupils' needs for an agreed time period.</p> <p>The general aim is to ensure pupils do not miss education whilst they are unwell, KHNES aims to ensure academic progress is maintained as much as it can be during pupil' stay with KHNES.</p> <p>KHNES staff together with the referring schools will design a re-integration plan to support reintegration back into school, or into onward provision where required.</p>
Offsite Education	<p>In a minority of cases KHNES can provide education offsite (either in homes, or other agreed location). This provision is normally for immune compromised pupils and only provided in exceptional cases. 1:1 tuition can be intensive and detrimental to pupils' social and emotional wellbeing reinforcing their isolation from peers and the school environment.</p> <p>This can include tuition, or other methods of education that meet the needs of the pupils, and increasingly responds to technological advances for the benefit of pupils</p>
Residential Provision (Oakfields Education Unit)	<p>We deliver an education provision within a secure residential site in Staplehurst. Admission is under the control of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM), this is independent to the KHNES referral process.</p> <p>There are a limited number of beds which are allocated by SLAM dependent upon the mental health need of the pupil; all of which are tier 4 highly specialized in-patient units and intensive community treatment services. KHNES provides education for the in-patients and liaises with schools over the nature of this provision.</p>

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