Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Sussex Road Primary School

Approved by:	FGB	Date:	September 2026
Next review due:	September 2027		

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.

Other relevant School Policies/Documents

Accessibility Plan
Allergies in school Policy
First Aid In Schools Policy
Health and Safety Policy
Intimate Care Policy

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 (updated 2017) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- Benedicts Law – Safe school access for pupils with allergies is covered the School's Allergy Policy

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. https://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias

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

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.

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 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

The School is required to complete an on-line return to the Local Authority once the initial 15 day period of absence has been reached, when advised at the outset that an absence through ill health will exceed 15 day, or where the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, KCC will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Referrals should be addressed to trsreferrals@trs.kent.sch.uk

The support package provided by them may include some of the following types of support: -

Remote learning - for pupils who are immunocompromised or unable to attend school
Outreach support - to their homeschool to support reintegration and learning.

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

While supported by the Local Authority, 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