

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

The Sittingbourne School



Approved by: Lynn Lawrence

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## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

The school fulfills its statutory obligation to ensure that suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.

Students, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the following:

- Education Act 1996
- 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 students at school with medical conditions'

It is 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>

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

### 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

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

- The student's Community Principal or Vice Principal will liaise with parents/carers to put in place suitable arrangements to ensure the best continuity of learning possible.
- The Principal or VP will monitor arrangements between home and school, including liaison with Subject Leaders and teachers.
- The Community Principal or Vice Principal may delegate some tasks related to homeschooling to a Pastoral Support Manager.
- The communities will ensure that appropriate work is sent home or sent to hospital schools where this is relevant.
- The communities will monitor the student's engagement with the work and liaise with the student's parents/carers and teachers where necessary.
- Where a student is not attending due to ill health, it is important that they feel supported in their learning. It is also important that each student's situation is assessed on an individual basis and that the student's needs are met accordingly.

- The Community Principal or Vice Principal will also be responsible for ensuring a supported reintegration of the student back into school after an extended period of illness. Again, this will include close liaison with parents/carers, attendance lead, Subject Leaders, teachers and the LA.
- When a student returns to school after an extended period of absence due to ill health, the communities will closely monitor the student for one school term and support their settling back into their learning and school life.
- Should the student require further support, the community leaders will make the necessary referrals, either to in-school support programmes or outside agencies. Again, this will be done in consultation with parents/carers.

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the LA will become responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

The school will make a referral to the Local Authority's Kent Health Needs Education Service. This service should accept and act on their following criteria:

- 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 students whose cases are managed by hospitals within Kent as well as in more specialist hospitals in London and across the country; Please 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 reintegration 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.

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 student.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.

- liaise with the alternative provider over planning examinations and examination course requirements where appropriate. (Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as soon as possible.
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.

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

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the student 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.

#### **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher and deputy headteacher for Engagement, Ethos and Values. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

#### **5. Links to other policies**

This policy works alongside the following school policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Mental Health Policy