



Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy



Approved by	Local Governing Body	Date Approved	January 2026
Review cycle	Annual	Date of next review	Autumn 2026



Version	Date	Update	Owner
V1	Nov 2021	Annual update. Source document ELT template/The Key	SJY
V2	Mar 2023	Annual update. Updated to reflect actions from Safeguarding Audit.	AKI
V3	Dec 2023	Annual update. Contact details updated.	BAL
V4	Nov 2024	Annual update. Update of 3.1, specifying further support or resources available- changes suggested by inclusion team and reviewed.	BAL
V5	Dec 2025	Annual update.	BAL/NSE

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs. This policy applies equally to pupils whose health needs include mental health conditions affecting attendance.
- Pupils, staff and parents 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 [Education Act 1996](#) and the DfE statutory guidance: [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school - GOV.UK](#)

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority which can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

3. The responsibilities of the school

When an ELT school is notified by parents/carers that a student has a complex health need that requires an alternative provision Mr Allin, Deputy Headteacher, will direct a member of staff to make contact with them to assess their needs. Parents will be asked for medical evidence of the health need at this stage. The meeting will be agreed and will be with a senior member of the Culture and Inclusion team. Parents must keep their children at home if they are acutely unwell and they should prioritise health over schoolwork where necessary. If, however there is a long period of absence and the child is able to study, through liaison with the parents / carers and health professionals, a plan will be agreed to provide the best possible learning experience for the child until they are either able to return to the school or access a different setting agreed with the local authority. The school and/or local authority will aim to provide full-time education unless medical advice recommends a reduced timetable.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with complex health needs who cannot attend school. Provision will be made promptly once it is evident that the pupil will miss 15 or more school days (cumulative or consecutive).

The exact details will depend on the specifics of each case but will be based on individual needs and available resources:

- The member of staff directed by Mr Allin, Deputy Headteacher, will initially make contact and act as the liaison with the home & health professionals.
- Arrangements such as sending work home (hard copies of printed resources) and/or providing work for online completion at hospital or other medical settings will be explored. Examples include, use of MS Teams, Sparx, Seneca, Booklet and other online platforms. The school will complete safeguarding checks during remote learning and ensure compliance with online safety policies.
- Regular contact with parents/carers, health professionals and the child concerned about the arrangements and ensure that the demands are carefully balanced between keeping up with schoolwork and recovering as well as possible to health and wellbeing.
- IHPs (individual healthcare plans) and education plans will be reviewed at least every 4 weeks in consultation with parents and health professionals.
- At the end of the period of absence from the school, we will explore the most sensible way of re-integrating back to the school setting. This is likely to include reasonable adjustments such as a phased return focussing on core learning and/or other subjects depending on the wishes of the child.
- Consideration will be given to refer the student to external partners to support them with transitioning back into school. For example, C-SPA, Access2Education, Mindworks, etc.
- Any agreed placement will be logged on internal tracking logs.
- All arrangements will comply with the Equality Act 2010, ensuring reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities and/or health conditions.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Surrey will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

This will be based on a balance of issues including:

- Whether the school can reasonably adapt to support the re-integration of the child
- The length of the absence from school
- The process for referring a child to the local authority

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 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 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mr Allin, Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies or documents

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy
- [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)
- [DfE Guidance: Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school \[gov.uk\]](#)
- [Surrey County Council Medical Policy \(Jan 2025\) \[surreycc.gov.uk\]](#)