



St Andrew's Primary School

Supporting pupils with health needs who cannot attend school policy

2024-2025



Approved by	Local Governing Body	Date Approved	01/12/2024
Review cycle	1 Year	Date of next review	Dec 2025

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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
- 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.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority which can be found here.

3. The responsibilities of the school

When an ELT school is notified by parents/carers that a student has a medical condition that requires a different provision the SENCO will make contact with them to assess their needs. 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.

Check your local authority's guidance on providing education to children with additional health needs, to see what responsibilities it places on you in this circumstance.

Adapt the sections below as needed. You'll also need to edit the text in section 3.2 if your responsibilities deviate from what we've set out, which is general good practice derived from DfE guidance.

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 exact details will depend on the specifics of each case but will based on:

- The SENCO will initially make contact and act as the liaison with the home & health professionals
- Arrangements such as sending work home or providing work for completion at hospital or other medical setting will be explored. Use of MS Teams or printing resources will be agreed.

- We will talk to both the 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.
- 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 a phased return focussing on core learning and/or other subjects depending on the wishes of the child.

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 the SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

(The DfE advises that you review this policy annually, in its [list of statutory policies](#).)

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions