



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Policy for Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Date: July 2026

Reviewed and Ratified by Governing body on 7th July 2026

Review Date: July 2027

Signed : _____ Rev'd Melissa Carter, Chair of Governors

Signed : _____ Helen Comfort, Executive Headteacher

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Equality

We recognise our duty and responsibility to establish equality for all pupils, staff, other members of the school community and service users regardless of their ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or beliefs as defined within existing equalities legislation (please see Equality Policy).

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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- [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 is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Examples of arrangements: providing adaptable and accessible packs of school work; communication interaction with staff via online sessions (using Zoom).

In some instances where school cannot meet the needs of the pupil due to their health, the school can make a referral to The Rosewood School. [The Rosewood School](#) is run by the Kent Local Authority for children who are unable to attend school because of serious illness.

Information on a referral to The Rosewood School can be found below:

[The Rosewood School referral](#)

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Kent County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, a request may be made to Kent County Council to consider if it has a responsibility to arrange suitable education for the child in line with Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

[Kent County Council](#) state:

If your child is of [school age](#) and unable to go to their regular school because they are in hospital or they have a long-term medical condition, we can help them continue their education.

This may include:

- *home tuition*
- *education at a local centre or other office*
- *education in hospital.*

The type of help we offer will depend on your child's specific illness or medical needs. To be eligible for our help, your child must have a suitably long-term medical condition. Short hospital stays or illnesses don't count.

Under 2013 government statutory guidance, the school has the initial responsibility in making necessary arrangements or adjustments to meet your child's health needs. As soon as you know that your child has a long-term illness or medical condition you need to talk to their school so that the school can provide necessary support.

If the school is unable to provide the support, they may refer your child to [The Rosewood School](#) who will get in touch with you if your child is eligible for our help.

Email enquiries-leybourne@trs.kent.sch.uk if you have any questions or want to find out if your child is eligible for our help.

You can also get support through our [Early Help service](#).

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence

- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

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

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- SEND
- Curriculum