



Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

Next Review: Autumn 2025

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation and guidance	2
3. Responsibilities of the school	2
4. Monitoring arrangements.....	4
5. Links to other policies	4

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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority which can be found in the Surrey Medical Policy (last updated December 2022)

3. Responsibilities of the school

In the Surrey Medical Policy (page 5, Section 6), guidance is clear that in most circumstances where a child and young person (CYP) has a health need, they will receive suitable education that meets their needs from their school, without the need for the intervention of the Local Authority.

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 Headteacher is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- We will always try to work with parents to discuss what is best for the child if they cannot attend school.
- Arrangements may include: sending work home, possible Teams sessions with the child for some subjects. The age of our children means that Teams sessions may not be suitable for them. It may also be difficult for some families to access Teams.
- Our goal will always be to reintegrate the child back into school. We may have arrangements such as a reduced timetable until attendance is as good as it can be for the child.
- The school will seek advice from inclusion agencies where necessary and appropriate.
- The school liaises with Hospital Teaching Staff if this is required.
- EBSNA (Emotional Based School Non-Attendance) training has been attended by key staff members.
- The school will complete safeguarding checks of all alternative provision that the child may attend.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

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

It is a statutory requirement that Local Authorities have a named person with oversight and responsibility for children with long term medical needs.

In Surrey County Council the named Officer with this responsibility and oversight is:

Mark Keiller Children Not in School Service Manager

The above Local Authority Officer will retain the oversight of ~~this Policy~~ Surrey's Medical Policy and will ensure that there is a link officer contact for notifications from schools. The school's allocated Inclusion Officer will act as the link officer and will signpost schools and professionals from education and health services to address issues where children and young people with long term medical needs are not accessing suitable education.

Provision in the Local Authority

Notifications to the Local Authority named person.

For most children, we will be able to make suitable adjustments to meet the medical needs of the children on our roll. Schools are guided by Surrey Local Authority to liaise with Health Professionals to bring together an Individual Health Plan (IHP) that aims to maintain the attendance of the child in school and to determine how the child can best be supported.

However, for children with some medical conditions it might be necessary for the Local Authority to consider providing short term support integration back into school, for example if a child is recovering from an operation and is unable to attend school for a period of time.

Where it is clear that the child's medical condition will not allow them to attend school, schools should request that parents/ carers provide medical evidence to allow the LA to consider whether interim alternative provision is appropriate.

The Statutory guidance published by the DFE, states that the medical evidence determining whether the CYP is unable to attend school should be such as that provided by a medical consultant.

Where specific medical evidence, such as that provided by a medical consultant, is not quickly available, the Local Authority (LA) would consider looking at other evidence, such as that from the child's GP, to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

Evidence should detail the child's condition, the treatment plan in place to support the child, any further referral made to Specialist Health Services, if possible a date by which they might be expected to return to school and when the case will be reviewed.

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

- Work constructively with the Surrey 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 Surrey 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 child 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

Access 2 Education (A2E) is the LAs provider of interim education support for children who are medically unfit to attend school.

Referral to A2E can be made by completing the A2E Request for Involvement Form in Appendix 1 of this document and returning this to the area A2E lead. (Details of the A2E leads are contained in Appendix 2.)

The referral form should be accompanied with any evidence secured from Health Professionals along with the Individual Health Plan.

If no medical evidence is secured detailing the medical condition preventing the CYP from attending school, A2E would explore with the school, the support and interventions in place for that CYP as consideration as part of the referral and make recommendations whether further evidence would be required.

Schools are also encouraged to report to their allocated Inclusion Officer, children who are absent for 3 or more weeks from school through sickness in any given half term. Inclusion Officers can signpost schools to support Page 7 and offer advice to the process and thresholds for securing interim provision from the LA. This information will be collated and held by the Area Inclusion Manager to ensure there is oversight of children not attending school through sickness with the Quadrant Area.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. 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
- Attendance Policy