

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

St James' CE Primary School



**Approved by:**

Full Governing Body

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**Next review due by:**

March 2027

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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. [Kent Health Needs Education Service \(KHNES\) - KELSI](#)

### 3. The responsibilities of the school

It is the responsibility of the school to meet the educational and pastoral needs of the children as far as it is possible to do so.

Pupils with health needs which prevent them attending their home school may be considered disabled in terms of the Disability Discrimination Act (examples of this might include those with epilepsy, diabetes, brain injury, or degenerative neuro muscular conditions) The school therefore needs to have regard to the duty imposed by the Act to make reasonable adjustments for the inclusion of such pupils.

Only after such consideration and reasonable adjustments have been made should the school consider referral to the Health Needs Education Service for provision of continuity of education as follows:

- Pupils whose mental health needs are at Tier 3 (CAMHS).
- Pupils whose physical health is evidenced by a hospital (paediatrician, consultant or registrar) to be too unwell to attend school. This applies to pupils whose cases are managed by hospitals within Kent as well as in more specialist hospitals in London and across the country.
- Pupils whose illness has reduced their school attendance to less than 50%

#### 3.1 The responsibilities of the Local Authority

When a school becomes aware that a pupil is unwell and their attendance has ceased or reduced to 50% or less, they have a duty to provide work to the pupil at home for 15 schools days.

During that time and if the illness is going to last longer, the school can apply to the KHNES (Kent Health Needs Education Service) for an appropriately agreed package of support which might include the following types of support:

- Home Tuition.
- Attendance at a base or satellite.

- Individual tuition in school.
- A combination/bespoke package as agreed by all parties.

All of the support programmes will include how the home school will maintain links with the pupil and their family to facilitate a successful reintegration. While supported by the HNES, pupils will be dual rolled so any absence will be born by the Service and not the school's attendance figures.

The school will follow the referral process as set out in the Health Needs Education Service Admissions/Referral Policy. This can be accessed via the link above.

In cases where the HNES has made arrangements for the education of the child, 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 team. 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