

St Peter-in-Thamet C.E.(Aided) Primary School



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

Approved by:	Full Governing Board	Date: 5.12.2023
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Last reviewed on:	December 2023 (based on model policy from The Key)
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Next review due by:	December 2024
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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 (HNES)

3. The responsibilities of the school

When we become aware that a pupil is seriously unwell and their attendance has ceased or reduced to 50% or less, we have a duty to provide work to the pupil at home for at least 15 schools days. During that time and if the illness is going to last longer, the school can apply to the HNES for an appropriately agreed package of support.

For those pupils too unwell to attend school, the key to successfully maintaining continuity of education is for the local authority and schools to have clear strategies and timely support available. It is recognised nationally that pupils who continue in education during their illness and recuperation are likely to recover more quickly with the minimum possible adverse effect on their educational and life outcomes.

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.

- A member of the Senior Leaderships Team (SLT) will be responsible for providing work
- Parents will be contacted by a member of SLT
- A meeting will be held with parents and a reintegration plan put in place

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Kent County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. This 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 borne by the Service and not the school's attendance figures.

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

During this period of the Covid-19 Pandemic the school has made specific provision to provide children with home access to the learning that is taking place in school. This 'blended' home learning echoes the lessons planned for each year group in school to minimise the disruption caused to children's education during times of absence from school. Lessons are uploaded digitally each week covering the main themes for the week in English, Maths and the wider curriculum alongside a channel of communication between the teacher, the pupil and the class.

4. Monitoring arrangements

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