



# Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Phoenix Community Primary School

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Ratified by the Governing Body: November 2021

Due for Review: October 2022



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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
- The primary aim of educating children and young people who cannot attend school due to illness or medical reasons minimises, as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling by continuing education as normally as their health needs allow.

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our Kent County Council: [KCC Policy on Supporting Children and Young People with Medical Conditions including Mental Health Needs](#)


### 3. The responsibilities of the school

Where pupils have long and persistent absences from school due to long-term chronic or health needs (including mental health) school must work with health professionals and other organisations to help continue to support pupils' education, personal development and well-being, and facilitate their early return to school.

#### 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 SENCO in our school will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- Arrangements that could be made include utilising existing and known online learning platforms and sending work home.
- Any educational provision for a child with additional health needs will be discussed with parents/carers first. Parents/carers have a key role to play in their child's education and can provide helpful information to ensure that the teaching approach is successful and to assess the impact of the proposed arrangements on the child's health. In the case of a



looked after child, local authority representatives and primary carers would fulfil this role. Children will also be involved in decisions, their engagement dependent on their age and maturity.

- When reintegration into school is anticipated, the school will work closely with any external organisations – for example the Health Needs Education Service - to ensure that pupils receive the necessary support they need to facilitate this process. A member of the school will hold a meeting with the appropriate external organisation and the pupil's parent(s).
- In many cases, a gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable. Appropriate external professionals may work alongside a pupil when they are returning to school, so a good handover takes place and the pupil feels confident in their return.

### 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.

- If school is unable to provide the support, we may refer to Kent Health Needs Education Service (KHNES) which aims to support parents and carers to deliver support to children with acute and chronic complex health needs. They will get in touch with parents if a child is eligible for help.
- The type of help offered by Kent County Council will depend on your child's specific illness or medical condition
- If you have any questions or want to find out if your child is eligible for help, please call Kent County Council on 01732 875694

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 Chris Johnson, 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](#)
- [SEND Policy](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)