



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

**Updated: September 2025
Next Review: September 2026**

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Pupils, staff, and parents understand the responsibilities of the school and the local authority in providing this education.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and is based on the guidance provided by our local authority: [Bracknell Forest Policy Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs](#).

This policy is based on the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- *Ensuring a Good Education for Children Who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Needs* (DfE, 2013)
- *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions* (DfE, 2014)
- *Alternative Provision Statutory Guidance* (DfE, 2013)
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE, 2025)
- Kent County Council policy and procedures for children with health needs

Safeguarding Statement

- Absence due to health needs will always be considered in the context of safeguarding. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed of any prolonged absence and will assess whether additional safeguarding action is required. Concerns will be managed in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership guidance.

Equality and Inclusion

The school recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and will ensure that pupils with health needs are not treated less favourably than their peers. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure access to education and reintegration opportunities.

3. Responsibilities of the School

Schools have statutory duties to support pupils with medical needs under the guidance 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School' (DfE, 2014). This policy applies when a pupil's medical condition is too complex or risky to manage within the school environment.

3.1 If the School Makes Arrangements

Green Park Community Primary School will initially attempt to make arrangements to provide suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo will be responsible for:

- Sending work home.
- Working closely with the hospital school.
- Consulting with the Local Authority for advice and guidance.
- Consulting with parents and the child about these arrangements.

If necessary, Green Park will make a referral to an appropriate provision at the earliest opportunity using the standard PRU/ hospital school referral form. The referral must include:

- Medical evidence from a qualified practitioner (e.g., paediatrician, CAMHS) confirming that the pupil is too ill to attend school.
- Details of reasonable adjustments in place.
- Dates of review meetings.
- A 'My Support Arrangements' document.

To avoid delays, the provision will support pupils who are currently managed at GP level but need further investigation by a medical consultant.

The provision will notify the school by email about the status of the referral. If the referral is not accepted, the provision will provide a reason and may direct the school to another agency. The provision will also request a support meeting at the school, if feasible.

The provision will consider medical advice, school input, and the views of parents and pupils. For long-term illnesses, updated medical evidence will be requested. Plans for the pupil's education and reintegration will be agreed upon at the start of the commissioned support, as per statutory guidance for Alternative Provision (2013). Green Park and other provisions will collaborate to ensure a smooth reintegration process.

3.2 If the Local Authority Makes Arrangements

If the school is unable to arrange suitable education, the local authority (Kent County Council) will assume responsibility. KCC will ensure that suitable full-time education (or as much as the child's health condition permits) is provided, regardless of the child's school type or enrolment status.

When the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Collaborate constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies, and parents to achieve the best outcomes for the pupil.
- Share necessary information with the local authority and relevant health services.
- Ensure that the education provided is effective and supports successful reintegration into school.

When reintegration is planned, the school will:

- Work with the local authority to ensure consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school, aiming to maintain curriculum continuity.
- Enable the pupil to remain connected with school life through newsletters, emails, invitations to events, or online access to lessons.
- Develop individually tailored reintegration plans for each returning pupil.
- Assess and make any reasonable adjustments needed for the pupil's successful reintegration.

The effectiveness of this policy and the education provided to pupils with health needs will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and reported to governors annually. This will include analysis of pupil outcomes, attendance data, reintegration success, and feedback from pupils and parents.

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To be agreed by staff and governing body