

Children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy is prescribed by The Good Shepherd Trust and all reference to 'the Trust' includes all Trust schools, the central team and subsidiary organisations.

Date adopted:	19 September 2022	Last reviewed:	n/a
Review cycle:	Every 1 year or earlier	Is this policy statutory?	Yes
Approval:	Trust Board on recommendation from Education Committee	Author:	Alex Clark

Revision record

Minor revisions should be recorded here when the policy is amended in light of changes to legislation or to correct errors. Significant changes or at the point of review should be recorded below and approved at the level indicated above.

Revision No.	Date	Revised by	Approved date	Comments

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](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

[Guidance from the Department for Education](#), directs all schools, including academies to carry out their duty to arrange suitable full-time education (or part time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a school because of their health.

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. Staff from the school will contact the family and discuss the medical needs and how they may impact on that child's ability to learn from home. The home learning plan will be bespoke to that child and agreed by the school and their family, so the best support can be given.

Work will be set daily as appropriate for the child's age and ability and particular needs. This may include remote learning.

All arrangements will be monitored and reviewed weekly and changes made if required. When medical needs improve a meeting between parents/carers and the school will devise a reintegration programme to support the child returning to school. This may be a phased return.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Surrey LA or Hampshire LA (the school's LA) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the LA is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to the DfE guidance.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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 trust. At every review, it will be approved by the CEO/COO.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions