



The Gateway Primary Academy

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

June 2024

Next review due by: June 2026

Please note this policy will be reviewed sooner in line with local or national guidance if needed

1. Introduction

The Gateway Primary Academy works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. Our school will be pro-active in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health issues where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', December 2023. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is education temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

2. Aims

The underlying aims of this policy are 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 education provided is of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

3. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of:

- Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
- Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. For further information please visit: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance/children-with-long-term-illness>

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

4. The responsibilities of the school

When a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide educational tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. Initially the resources will be provided by the class teacher and this will be monitored by the SLT. Discussion will take place with parents to identify the best way for work to be set e.g. online, work to be emailed or work to be sent in packs.

As much as possible, work set will match work being covered in class to support the child in returning to their education and to support them in the transition to their return to school.

When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then further advice will be sought from KCC to find the best way to continue the child's education. If the reason for absence is a long-term medical condition KCC may offer one of the following:

- Home tuition
- Education at a local centre or other office
- Education in office

The support given to the child will depend on their specific needs, illness or medical needs. Short hospital stays or illnesses would not lead to the support identified above.

For further information on the support KCC can offer for children with long term illnesses please visit:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance/children-with-long-term-illness>

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the hospital teaching service to inform them of the curriculum area the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The Gateway will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data and SEN information.

Where practical, The Gateway will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, The Gateway will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

Please note: If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Kent County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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, the school will 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

Reintegration into The Gateway

Following 'a longer term' absence' a risk assessment would be undertaken prior to the child's return to school and would identify whether the child should return initially on a part-time basis.

The Gateway will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The Gateway will ensure that the pupils and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The Gateway will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organizing risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEN devolved budget or via review and referral to the SEN panel.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed biannually by Mr Cassem. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and child protection policy