

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Istead Rise Primary School



Approval Date	Policy Reviewer	Title	Chair of Governors
October 2025	Steve Payne	Headteacher	Sarah Leigh

Frequency of Policy Review	Annually
Model Policy	Based on the DFE guidance

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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.

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

[DfE guidance](#).

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 Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher will monitor these arrangements
- All pupils will have access to work online. If the pupils cannot access online learning, learning packs will be provided. These packs can be collected from school or posted to the pupil's home address. The school is happy to discuss further assistance and whether the school can help
- These children and parents will have regular contact with the class teacher or support staff to ensure they can access the learning and all their needs are being met. The staff will check in to see if the pupil needs any further resources to support their learning. This will be done by phone or email.
- When children are ready to attend school, we will set up a reintegration meeting to establish a plan to support this.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Kent will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Kent local authority would take over responsibility when the school cannot do so.

- The school cannot make reasonable adjustments and facilitate with the child's learning
- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements

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

The Headteacher will review this policy annually.

At every review, the Local Governing Body will approve it.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions