



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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1. Statement of Intent

Veritas Multi Academy Trust aims to ensure that all pupils who are unable to attend their School due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as full an education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their School and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. Where this is not possible, we will work to provide an appropriate level of education remotely while alternative provision is established.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work in partnership with families and healthcare partners to ensure that all pupils with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to access their education.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority. [Children with long-term illness - Kent County Council](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and Articles of Association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

Under 2013 government statutory guidance, the school has the initial responsibility in making necessary arrangements or adjustments to meet the child's health needs. A parent or carer is required to let the school know that their child has a long-term illness or medical condition for which additional support is required. The school is aware of its responsibilities when mental health issues are impacting on a child's attendance.

If the school is unable to provide the support, they may refer the child to [The Rosewood School](#) who will get in touch with the parent or carer if the child is eligible for their help. Parents may also get support through the [Early Help service](#).

3.1 Working together

Working together parents and carers have an important role to play and can provide necessary information about the child and their needs, whether the child is at home or in hospital. Parents and carers should always be consulted before new provision begins. Children should also be involved in decision making from the start. How a child is engaged should reflect their age and maturity.

This will help ensure that the right provision is offered and encourage the child's commitment and engagement. In all cases, effective collaboration between relevant services (local authorities, CAMHS, NHS, home schools, school nurses, where relevant, etc) is essential to delivering effective education for children with additional physical or mental health needs. Service level agreements and/or multi-agency forums may aid this process. This applies whether the child is in hospital or at home.

The full guidance can be found here: [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#).

3.2 If the school makes the arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

A nominated inclusion leader will be responsible for overseeing arrangements and monitoring the provision. The Family Liaison Officer will work in partnership to support, including the assurance of a reintegration of the pupil back into school.

3.3 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Kent County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

If you have any questions or want to find out if your child is eligible for Kent Local Authority help, email enquiries-leybourne@trs.kent.sch.uk. You can also get support through our [Early Help service](#).

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs.
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child.
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this.
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources.
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits.
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Governance Professional. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs
- Accessibility Policy (incl Audit Plan)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Objectives