

Federation of Chislet Church of England and Hoath Primary Schools

Chislet C. E. Primary School



*A journey of learning for all,
within God's guiding hands*



*Small school, Big community,
Unlimited Potential*

**The Federation of Chislet CE and Hoath
Primary Schools**

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

**First Agreed November 2020
Last reviewed October 2025
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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

The Federation fulfils its statutory obligation to ensure that suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.

Pupils, staff and parents/carers 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 following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'
- Keeping Children Safe In Education 2025

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/pupil-referral-unit-andalternative-provision/kent-health-needs-education-service>

3. The responsibilities of the school

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 Executive Headteacher/Head of Schools will liaise with parents/carers to put in place suitable arrangements to ensure the best continuity of learning possible.
- The Executive Headteacher/Head of Schools will monitor arrangements between home and school, including liaison with SENDCo's, Subject Leaders and teachers.
- The Class Teacher will ensure that appropriate work is sent home or sent to hospital schools where this is relevant.
- The Class Teacher will monitor the pupil's engagement with the work and liaise with the pupil's parents/carers where necessary.
- Where a pupil is not attending due to ill health, it is important that they feel supported in their learning. It is also important that each pupil's situation is assessed on an individual basis and that the pupil's needs are met accordingly.
- The Executive Headteacher/Head of Schools will also be responsible for ensuring a supported reintegration of the pupil back into school after an extended period of illness. Again, this will include close liaison with parents/carers, teachers and the LA.
- When a pupil returns to school after an extended period of absence due to ill health, The SENDCo and the Class Teacher will closely monitor the pupil for one school term and support their settling back into their learning and school life.
- Should the pupil require further support, the SENDCo will make the necessary referrals, either to in-school support programmes or outside agencies.

Again, this will be done in consultation with parents/carers.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the LA will become responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

The school will make a referral to the Local Authority's Kent Health Needs Education Service. This service should accept and act on their following criteria:

- Medical needs are such that the child has missed 15 days of schooling (consecutive or cumulative).
- The child's health has significantly reduced their ability to access their home school full time and this is reflected in their attendance record.
- A senior medical professional (such as a consultant, mental health practitioner etc) is providing support, diagnosis and/or advice. This applies to pupils whose cases are managed by hospitals within Kent as well as in more specialist hospitals in London and across the country; Please Note: GP referral is not sufficient.
- A change in medical advice or medication has meant that a child requires increased medical review, intervention, support or flexibility to allow them to attend education full time.
- Health need can mean either physical health need, or mental health condition meaning it is disrupting the child's ability to attend school full time
- A child has been discharged from tier 4 Mental Health Service services and requires on-going support before full time reintegration to school.
- When further dialogue post-referral is required between KHNES and schools there may be the need for further discussion with medical professionals to ensure correct decisions are reached in the best interest of all 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, 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 Executive Headteacher, Head of Schools and deputy Headteacher for Engagement, Ethos and Values. At every review, it will be approved by the Full Governing Body.

5. Links to other policies

This policy works alongside the following school policy:

- Accessibility plan