



Pupils with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Responsibilities

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Key school staff member & role	Dan Owen-Taylor – Deputy Head of Primary
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Version number	Date of version	Details of updates, changes or review
1.0	May 2025	Policy updated and rebranded



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1. Mission Statement

That all students should aspire to be:

- successful learners
- confident individuals
- responsible citizens
- and effective contributors

2. Vision Statement

As a specialist school that supports pupils with a range of complex special educational needs (SEN), we endeavour to employ a highly-skilled, flexible workforce who will provide support which intends to meet the aspirations of our mission statement, working closely with a range of stakeholders and partners to enhance student outcomes.

3. Ethos and Values

The school aims to be positive, innovative and demanding with high expectations while balanced with high levels of support for each pupil's well-being. The values we believe are needed to attain this ethos include:

- teamwork, partnership and support to ensure the best possible learning environment is created
- personal responsibility and leadership to ensure everyone understands their roles within the school and feels a sense of belonging and achievement
- innovation, creativity and change to ensure that the school remains at the cutting edge of teaching and learning and behavioural development
- resilient, optimistic and positive to ensure all pupils learn to cope with success and failure, to develop self-esteem
- challenge, opportunity and recognition to ensure all possible avenues for development are investigated and achievement rewarded
- honesty, trust and compassion to ensure we become an emotionally intelligent community capable of understanding the feelings of others



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4. 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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

5. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our LA.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 Responsibilities of the school

At Rowhill School, we are committed to supporting pupils with health and medical conditions in line with statutory guidance.

This policy outlines our responsibilities to ensure that pupils with health/medical needs receive the necessary support to engage in education.

1. **Statutory Duty:** Rowhill School acknowledges the duty placed on us under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to make arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions. We will follow the Department for Education (DfE) guidance "[Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School](#)" (2015) and relevant updates, such as the "[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)" (2024) guidance.



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2. Named Responsibility: We will assign a named person responsible for overseeing support for pupils with health/medical conditions. This individual will ensure that appropriate Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs) are developed where needed, in collaboration with parents, pupils, and healthcare professionals

The person with Named Responsibility is: Geoff Bartrum, Headteacher

3. Support for Pupils: Rowhill School will:

- Provide tailored support for pupils with health/medical needs, ensuring that all necessary adjustments are made to allow them to access suitable education
- Create and implement IHPs for pupils requiring them, ensuring these plans are regularly reviewed and updated
- Refer to external services, such as specialist medical professionals, when necessary, and seek medical advice (with parental consent) to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil

4. Mental Health and Attendance: Rowhill School will also follow the DfE ["Summary of Responsibilities Where a Mental Health Issue is Affecting Attendance" \(2023\)](#). We will promote mental health and well-being through a whole-school approach and nominate a Mental Health Lead, who will oversee the school's mental health strategy and ensure staff are adequately trained to support students.

The nominated Mental Health Lead is: Sarah Griffey, Head of Secondary

5. Reasonable Adjustments: We will make reasonable adjustments to ensure pupils with chronic or long-term health/medical conditions have access to education, whether through part-time timetables, remote/virtual learning, or other suitable educational arrangements. In situations where pupils cannot attend full-time, we will ensure they receive education equivalent to what they would have experienced in school.



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6. Medical Evidence and Support: For complex or long-term medical conditions, Rowhill School will:

- Work with medical professionals to understand the pupil's needs and identify the best educational arrangements
- Review and revise any part-time or alternative provision regularly, with input from medical professionals and families

7. External Referrals and Community Support: When necessary, we will make appropriate referrals to external support services, including the Kent and Medway Mental Health Support Teams, Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) pathway, or school health services (The Rosewood School), to ensure the comprehensive well-being of the pupil.

8. Reintegration: We will develop a clear reintegration plan for pupils returning to school following an absence due to health/medical reasons. This plan will be created in consultation with medical professionals, parents, and the pupil, ensuring that it meets their individual needs and allows for a smooth transition back into school life.

9. Local Authority Notifications: If a pupil is unable to attend school for more than 15 days due to health/medical reasons, Rowhill School will notify the local authority in accordance with statutory requirements, ensuring that the pupil remains on the school roll and continues to receive appropriate educational provision.

10. Parental and Pupil Consultation: Parents and carers will be involved in discussions regarding their pupil's educational arrangements. We will maintain clear communication with families and seek their input when developing and reviewing any IHP or reintegration plan.

At Rowhill School, we strive to ensure that every pupil receives the support they need to achieve their full educational potential, regardless of any health or medical conditions they may face.

6.2 Responsibilities of the local authority

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a pupil 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 pupils.



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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 pupil's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the pupil'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 pupil's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our 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 pupil
- 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 pupil and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a pupil 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 pupil'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 pupil to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure that the pupil 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, including through digital resources
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits



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- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each pupil returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

7. Links to other policies

- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Mental Health policy
- Attendance Policy

- END OF POLICY -