



<b>Policy Approved:</b>	<b>3 October 2024</b>
<b>Next Review:</b>	<b>December 2026</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>1 October 2024</b>

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### 1. Aims

Every child regardless of circumstance should have the best possible start in life through a high-quality education, which allows them to achieve their full potential and shape their own futures. A child who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peer group, including a broad and balanced curriculum.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for students on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs either for an extended period of time or who are restricted by their health needs to attend intermittently.
- Students, 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 Section 19 of the [Education Act 1996](#) and the statutory guidance for local authorities [Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs - January 2013](#). It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority [Surrey Local Offer - Medical conditions and education](#).

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

### 3. Responsibilities of the school

Schools are required by law to make arrangements for supporting students at their school with medical conditions. This duty is detailed in [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#) and statutory guidance entitled [Supporting students at school with medical conditions](#).

The key points detailed in the guidance indicate that:

- Students at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- The Local Governing Council of each school must seek assurance that arrangements are in place in school to support students at school with medical conditions.
- The Local Governing Council should seek assurance that school leaders consult health

and social care professionals, students and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

The Trust has a policy for Supporting Students with Medical Conditions that is reviewed annually.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive a suitable education that meets their needs, for example where the child can still attend school with some support; where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child; or where arrangements have been made for the child to be educated in a hospital school.

However, where a child cannot attend school because of health needs and it is clear that they will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, the school will, in consultation with parents/carers, contact the local authority and make a Medical Needs Referral.

#### **4. Responsibilities of the Local Authority**

The local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who cannot be provided with suitable education because of illness (unless the local authority considers that a child's condition means that full-time provision would not be in their best interests). The local authority's duty is set out in [Section 19 of the Education Act 1996](#) and in the statutory guidance, [Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#).

Medical Needs referrals will either be made by the School or by one of the following Surrey County Council departments:

- The Schools Admission Team
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Team
- The Area Case Review and Area Action Group (ACRAG)

Referrals require a letter from a medical consultant that clearly states that the child is unable to attend school because of their health needs (medically unfit to attend school). Where specific consultant level medical evidence, is not yet available, medical evidence will be expected from the child's GP, a CAMHS professional or another medical professional. The local authority may consider liaising with other medical professionals and consider looking at other evidence to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

Following the acceptance of a referral, the local authority may offer:

- alternative learning services such as Access to Education (A2E) and Surrey Online School.
- home tuition
- education at a local centre or other office
- education in hospital.

The type of help offered will depend on your child's specific illness or medical needs.

In cases where the local authority takes responsibility for the child's education, the school will:

- Work constructively and collaboratively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies, parents/carers and the student to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the student is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully,
- Identify and facilitate opportunities for the student to stay in contact with classmates and school staff so they continue to feel part of the school community.
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
  - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school. For example, by making information available about the curriculum, helping the child to keep up, rather than having to catch up.
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school.

Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made for any ongoing health problems.

#### **5. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed biennially and approved by the Board of Trustees.