

Ashford CE Primary School



Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Updated Policy: June 2026

Approved by FGB: 11 June 2026

Next review: Autumn 2028

Signed: L Bowman

Chair of Governors

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Our School Vision

We are a caring Christian community where everyone adopts an “I can” attitude; everyone feels valued, safe and loved by God. We celebrate our God-given individuality, achievements and talents and we aspire, with God’s help, to become the best that we can be. We believe that each one of us has the ability to achieve our highest potential, living and learning in the fullness of God.

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Philippians 4v13

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.
- 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.

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.

This could include sending work home or working with Hospital Schools as appropriate.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil’s education whilst they are not attending school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education

Our alternative provision would:

- Aim at good academic attainment on par with mainstream school in key subjects.

- Identify and aim to meet the specific personal, social, emotional and academic needs of the pupil.
- Aim to improve the motivation, self-confidence, attendance and engagement with education.
- Have clearly defined objectives.
- Ensure staff members are informed and responsive to the pupil's possible changing health status. This would include being sensitive to changes and the impact of periods of treatment and working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of the child.

We would facilitate this by:

- Creating a personalised learning plan to accommodate both academic and health needs.
- Regularly reviewing this plan and adapting it accordingly.
- Providing access to resources required to support learning from home, including (where appropriate) online resources.
- Holding regular review meetings with parents/carers either in person or via telephone/virtual meetings.
- Liaising with other professionals supporting the pupils and the family, where appropriate.
- Providing a named point of contact in school for the family (this could be the SENDCo or class teacher).
- Creating opportunities for access to the wider curriculum, where possible.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Surrey County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. The school must request this support and will provide evidence of the current provision made by the school. The local authority should arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of the absence, aiming to do so by the first day of absence. Where an absence is planned, for example for a stay or recurrent stays in hospital, the local authority should make arrangements in advance to allow provision to begin from day one.

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 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

- Staff members to receive timely and suitable training and support for the return of the pupil
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed on changes to guidance or bi-annually by the DSL Team/Safeguarding Governor. At every review, it will be reported to the full governing board.

5. Links to Other Policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and First Aid Policy
- Safeguarding Children Policy