



Children with Health Needs who cannot Attend School Policy

January 2025

Approved by the Governing Body Strategy Group 06/02/25

**This Policy is due for renewal in Term 3
2027–28**

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY OF GODINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SECTION ONE – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

If a child, has a long term medical condition that means they are unable to attend school, it is important that the school makes provision to continue their education at the points when they are well enough to do so. This may include children who are physically unwell through illness or injury or who are suffering with a mental health issue. At Godinton Primary School we consider it important to work with the family in a supportive manner to ensure that the child still feels part of our school and is able to engage with suitable learning opportunities. This policy covers long term situations, not short stays in hospital or short periods of illness.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The school fulfils its statutory obligation to ensure that suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Staff, parents/carers and children understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by someone other than the school e.g. The Rosewood School through KCC.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our other policies on Health and welfare including but not limited to:

- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy
- SEND Policy

SECTION TWO – 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’

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

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance/children-with-long-term-illness>

SECTION THREE – RESPONSIBILITIES

If a child is unable to attend school because they are in hospital or they have a long-term medical condition, there are different opportunities available to help them to continue their education. This may include:

- School work provided by the school
- Home tuition
- Education at a local centre or other establishment
- Education in hospital.

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

Under 2013 government statutory guidance, the school has the initial responsibility in making necessary arrangements or adjustments to meet a child's health needs.

3.1 Responsibilities of the School

Where a child is not attending due to ill health, it is important that they feel supported in their learning. It is also important that each child's situation is assessed on an individual basis and that the child's needs are met accordingly.

As soon as parents know that a child has a long-term illness or medical condition they should talk to the school (Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion or Family Liaison Officer) so that the school can provide necessary support.

The Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion or Family Liaison Officer will liaise with the class teacher and parents / carers to put in place suitable arrangements to ensure the best continuity of learning possible. This will take into account, what level of engagement would be most appropriate, given a child's condition.

The Assistant Head will monitor arrangements between home and school, including liaison with the class teacher and where required, with the Family Liaison Officer.

The class teacher will ensure that appropriate work is sent home or sent to hospital schools where this is relevant. This may be emailed or sent as a hard copy

Returning to school after an extended period of time may be daunting for a child and support will be required to make the return as successful as possible. The Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion will also be responsible for ensuring a supported reintegration of the child back into school after an extended period of illness or injury. Again, this will include close liaison

with parents/carers, the FLO and class teacher. The child will be closely monitored upon their return and further support will be actioned if deemed necessary.

3.2 Responsibilities of the Local Authority and accessing The Rosewood School

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.

In this situation, the school can make a referral to The Rosewood School, which is run by the Kent Local Authority, by following the link below:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/pupil-referral-unit-and-alternative-provision/the-rosewood-school>

The Rosewood School believe that all young people are best educated in full time education at their main school/provider. The Rosewood School is intended to be a short-term educational support service for pupils with health-based barriers to accessing this full-time education. It is designed to:

- Provide education, support and advice to enable continuity of education in cases where young people's access to full time education is compromised by health needs.
- Work towards a programme of reintegration in to home school provider (or onward provision) as soon as is possible and appropriate.

When allocating provision, The Rosewood School operates to the following broad guidelines (in line with the principles of 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health need' DFE 2013). This states that 'hard and fast rules' should not apply.

The Rosewood School's key principles are:

- The primary need in all cases must be a health need. All young people referred must have a fully completed Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP).
- Where there is a perceived mental health need, The Rosewood School consults NELFT support to ensure decisions over provision are appropriate.
- Every case referred to The Rosewood School is considered on its own merits and provision/advice and support will be allocated in the best interests of the young people referred. Broadly, this means that The Rosewood School will always work towards re-integration with home school, or onward provision as soon as possible, and attempt to allocate provision that will enable this to happen as quickly as possible.

The following are accepted as broad criteria for referral. The Rosewood School's referral panel will then consider applying support in one of their designated forms. The Rosewood School aims to support young people that broadly meet the following statements with the aim of reintegrating fully to the referring school, or supporting towards onward provision as soon as possible and appropriate.

- The young person'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 young person 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 young person's ability to attend school full time.
- A young person has been discharged from tier 4 Mental Health Service services and requires on-going support before full time re-integration to school.
- When further dialogue post-referral is required between The Rosewood School 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 young people.
- Medical needs are such that the young person has missed 15 days of schooling (consecutive or cumulative).

Where The Rosewood School is involved in a child's education, the school will:

- Work constructively with The Rosewood School or other relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the child.
- Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required. This may include information about special educational needs.
- Liaise with The Rosewood School over national assessments e.g. KS2 SATS, where appropriate. Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or LA if more appropriate, as soon as possible.
- 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.

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the Local Authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible.
- Enable the student 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.
- Liaise with parents to ensure that needs are being met

Further information about The Rosewood School can be found at:

<https://trs.kent.sch.uk/>

SECTION FOUR – MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is monitored by the Senior Management Team and is reviewed every 2 years or sooner if guidance or legislation changes.

SECTION FIVE – CHILDREN IN CARE

As for all our pupils, Godinton Primary School is committed to helping every Child in Care to achieve the highest standards they can. To this end, staff will ensure that support is provided for any children in care who are unable to attend school due to health needs.

SECTION SIX – EQUALITY STATEMENT (Refer also to specific policies for equal opportunities and racial equality)

At Godinton Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all members of our school community irrespective of race, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy or maternity, marriage and civil partnership or socio-economic background. We are determined to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life.

We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality by challenging stereotypes and by creating an environment that champions respect for all. At Godinton Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength that should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

All school policies have an explicit aim of promoting equality and will be reviewed in terms of their contribution and effectiveness in achieving this aim.