



CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for scholars on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Scholars, 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](#).

It is also based on guidance provided by our [local authority](#).

[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 pupils at school with medical conditions'](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2020](#)

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

KCC's guidance on providing education to children with health needs who cannot attend school states that Under 2013 Government statutory guidance, the school has the initial responsibility in making necessary arrangements or adjustments to meet a child's health needs. Therefore, as soon as Turner Free School (TFS) is aware that a child has a long-term illness or medical condition, it will provide necessary support. This does not include short hospital stays or illnesses.

If TFS is unable to provide the support, WE may refer the scholar to our [Kent Health Needs Education Service \(KHNES\)](#), who will get in touch with the parent/carer if the child is eligible for help.

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 Senior Pastoral Lead/SENDCo will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- The Trust Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning will be responsible for setting and collecting work from the learning platform.
- TFS will try to deliver teaching and learning materials either by sending work home, or setting work on the online platform Google Classroom
- TFS will consult parents and children about these arrangements via meetings where action plans will be drawn up and agreed upon.
- Scholars will be reintegrated back into school following consultation with the parents and the child. This may be over a period of time and on a restricted timetable, until it is built up to full time.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If TFS cannot make suitable arrangements or provide the level of support, KCC will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

This will be done via Kent Health Needs Education Service (KHNES). A scholar may be full time or part time at the provision provided. They may not attend TFS during this period. The process for referring a child to the local authority is as follows:

- The primary need in all cases must be a health need (including where a behavioural need or concern is as a result of a health need). All young people referred must have a fully completed Individual Healthcare Plan (IHCP).
- Where there is a perceived mental health need, KHNES consults NELFT support to ensure decisions over provision are appropriate.
- Every case referred to KHNES 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 KHNES 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 criteria for referral is as follows and more details can be found at <http://www.khnes.kent.sch.uk/>

Referral Criteria:

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

- Medical needs are such that the young person has missed 15 days of schooling (consecutive or cumulative).
- 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 scholars 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 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 young people.

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 scholar
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the scholar 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 scholar to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
- Enable the scholar 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 Michael Chapman (Vice Principal) and Carrie Baker (SENDCo) or in line with any changes made to statutory guidelines.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting scholars with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy