

Polesden Lacey Infant School



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Status	Statutory
Review Cycle	Yearly
Date written/last review	October 2024
Date of next review	October 2025

Signed Chair of Governors

Date

Signed Headteacher

Date

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1. Aims

Polesden Lacey Infant School aims to support the LA and ensure that all 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.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the 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.

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 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 also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

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.

Our alternative provision would aim to:

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

- Identify and 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
- Staff members to be informed and responsive to the pupil's possible changing health status.

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
- 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.

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 that 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
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

Provision within Surrey is currently via Access to education (A2E) or Surrey Online School

A2E provides a flexible short-term service for children/young people who through exceptional circumstances cannot attend school including medical reasons and permanent exclusions. Referrals to A2E can come from the following:

- The Schools Admission Team
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Team

- The Area Case Review and Area Action Group (ACRAG)

[Surrey Online School](#) (SOS) provides a mix of education technology including live online lessons to a range of pupils across the county. It aims to make the best teaching available to all students in Surrey, irrespective of background or location.

SOS provide these lessons to a wide range of pupils including those who are out of school due to medical needs. Referral to this service can only be made by a school or organisation. This service is only offered to pupils in Year 1 and above.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Rebecca Mole (Headteacher) At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding and Child Protection