

The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's

Supporting Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School– Policy and Procedures

Aim

This policy applies to pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs, who are physically ill or injured, and those who may be experiencing periods of mental ill health. It draws upon the statutory guidance, “Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs” (DFE 2013).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/269469/health_needs_guidance_-_revised_may_2013_final.pdf

Education Act 1996, Section 19 Local authorities have a duty to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time if medically appropriate) for children of compulsory school age who cannot attend school due to illness or other reasons.

Children and Families Act 2014 & SEND Code of Practice (2015, updated 2020) Ensures provision meets the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, requiring reasonable adjustments and tailored support.

Equality Act 2010 Protects pupils from discrimination and requires schools to make reasonable adjustments for children with health needs.

Human Rights Act 1998 (Article 2, Protocol 1) Recognises every child's right to education.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2025) Sets safeguarding standards for all educational provision, including external providers and alternative provision.

Statutory Guidance: Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (DfE, 2013, updated 2023) Outlines expectations for suitable, high-quality provision for children unable to attend school due to medical needs.

Alternative Provision Guidance (DfE, 2025) Clarifies responsibilities of schools and local authorities in

Reviewed: November 2025

Review November 2026

arranging education outside mainstream settings, ensuring quality and accountability.

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

- KCSIE2025
- First Aid Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Policy for Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs

1. Principles

- 1.1. The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's is committed to educating every child including when pupils have succumbed to medical situations, which preclude them from attending school on a regular basis.
- 1.2. The Head of School /SENCO will lead in any relevant cases with the support of Executive Headteacher and any other appropriate staff.
- 1.3. The primary aim of educating children and young people who cannot attend school due to illness or medical reasons is to minimise, as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling by continuing education as normally as their health needs allow.
- 1.4. Pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs and the nature of the educational provision made must be responsive to the demands of a changing medical status.
- 1.5. The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's, working with the relevant Local Authority, must arrange suitable full-time education (or part- time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can attend only intermittently.
- 1.6. The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision, which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive, one-to-one tuition the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.
- 1.7. Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, LA's should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Math's and Science.
- 1.8. There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child. (See 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions', Statutory Guidance, (DfE; 2014)).
- 1.9. All pupils should be treated as individual cases.
- 1.10. As far as possible, pupils should be involved in any decisions from the start with the ways in which they are engaged, reflecting their age and maturity.

2. Working with External Organisations

Reviewed: November 2025

Review November 2026

2.1. The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's staff will work with all external organisations as necessary. These include, but are not limited to:

- CAMHS
- Professional medical services
- Private or NHS GPs/specialists
- Hospital schools
- Local Authority

2.2. In Kent, pupils may be referred to the Health Needs Education Team (or a similar body) which aims to support parents and carers to deliver support to children with acute and chronic complex health needs. Their role includes:

- teaching, training and assessment of carers and parents
- supporting inclusion
- reducing hospital admission and re-admission
- reducing absence from school by delivering nursing care such as intravenous antibiotic therapy
- chronic disease management promoting self-care
- advocate support
- working in partnership with the family to meet their child's health care needs.

2.3 The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's will ensure that any external educational provision meets the required safeguarding standards prior to a pupil commencing study with that organisation.

3. Provision

3.1 Any arrangements made should be flexible and reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the student. 1.1The Federation of St Martin's and Seabrook CEP School's staff should work in partnership with pupils, parents/ carers, the local authority, medical and educational professionals to ensure the best possible outcome for each child. The education of children with life limiting and terminal illness

3.1. The 2013 guidance states that LA is expected to continue to provide education for as long as the pupil's parents and the medical staff wish it.

3.2. If the pupil and parents wish to withdraw from education, their wishes will be respected if the decision is supported by medical advice.

4. Working together – with parents/carers, children, health services and local authority

4.1. Any educational provision for a child with additional health needs will be discussed with parents/carers first. Parents/carers have a key role to play in their child's education and can provide helpful information to ensure that the teaching approach is successful. In the case of a looked after child, local authority representatives and primary carers would fulfil this role. Children will also be involved in decisions, their engagement dependent on their age and maturity.

5. Reintegration into School

5.1. When reintegration into school is anticipated, the School will work closely with any external organisations – for example the Health Needs Education Team - to ensure that pupils receive the necessary support they need to facilitate this process. A member of the school will hold a meeting with the appropriate external organisation and the pupil's parent(s).

5.2. In many cases, a gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable. Appropriate external professionals may work alongside a pupil when they are returning to school so a good

Reviewed: November 2025

Review November 2026

handover takes place and the pupil feels confident in their return.

- 5.3. Pupils who are self-harming/coping with an eating disorder will be expected to attend an appointment with a CAMHS consultant or similar, to assess and ensure that the pupil is safe to attend school before they return. Appropriate work will be provided if there is a delay in the ability to have an appointment with a suitably qualified medical professional.