



The King's (The Cathedral) School

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Responsibility:	Mr O Pengelly
Ratified By:	Governing Body
Date Reviewed:	May 2025
Next Review Date:	May 2027

Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

1. Aims

At the King's (The Cathedral) School, we aim to ensure that in our school:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to medical needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the School is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Local Authority.
- 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 school and will work with the Local Authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

2. Legislation and Guidance

2.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2023) 'Arranging Education For children Who Cannot Attend School Because Of Health Needs'
- DfE (2025) Arranging Alternative Provision DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- Peterborough City Council Attendance Policy Guidance on Reduced Timetables

2.2 This policy operates in conjunction with the following The King's (The Cathedral) School policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

3. Definitions

3.1 Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include **those** with:

- a. Physical health issues
- b. Physical injuries
- c. Mental health problems, including anxiety issues, which could result in school refusal
- d. Progressive conditions
- e. Terminal illnesses
- f. Chronic illnesses

3.2 Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: special school within a hospital setting, where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.

- Alternative Provision: Establishments commissioned by the Local Authority to provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. The King's (The Cathedral) School has a duty to support the Local Authority in doing so.

4.2 The Local Authority should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil.
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents/carers know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their local duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education. 'Suitable' means suitable to the child's age, aptitude, ability and any special educational needs that he or she may have.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

4.3 The King's (The Cathedral) School will:

- Ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Work collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
- Ensure the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appoint a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, pupils, the Academic Head of Year, the Pupil Support Officer, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensure the support put in place focuses on the needs of individual pupils.
- Actively monitor pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Arrange appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils and health needs.
- Provide teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Provide reports to the school's Governing Body on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notify the Local Authority when a pupil is likely to be away from school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
- Approve and review this policy every two years.

5. Managing Absences

- Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.

- b. Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- c. The King's (The Cathedral) School will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 days by liaising with the pupil's parents/carers, to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The King's (The Cathedral) School will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.
- d. For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, the named person with responsibility for pupils with health needs will notify the Local Authority, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.
- e. Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the Local Authority to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
- f. For hospital admissions, the appointed member of staff will liaise with the Local Authority regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.
- g. The Local Authority will set up an Education Plan (EP) for the pupil which will allow the school, the Local Authority and the provider of the pupil's education to work together.
- h. The King's (The Cathedral) School will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.
- i. The King's (The Cathedral) School will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where:
 - a. The pupil has been certified by a Medical Officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age and;
 - b. Neither the pupil nor their parent/carer has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the Medical Officer, even if the Local Authority has become responsible for the pupil's education.

6. Support for Pupils

Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the Local Authority, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil.

The Local Authority expects the school to support pupils with health needs to attend full time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to a pupil's programmes of study, where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.

The school will make reasonable adjustments under pupils' Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs), in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Pupils admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.

During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the pupil's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.

Whilst a pupil is away from school, the school will work with the Local Authority to ensure the pupil can successfully remain in touch with their school using the following methods:

- School correspondence to parents/carers
- Emails

- Invitations to school events
- Cards or letters from peers and staff
- Work loaded onto our electronic homework system

Where appropriate, the school will provide the pupil's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.

To help ensure a pupil with additional health needs is able to attend school following an extended period of absence, the following adaptations will be considered on a temporary basis:

- A personalised or part-time timetable, drafted in consultation with the named staff member
- Access to additional support in school
- Electronic access to the curriculum for home learning for short periods
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms
- Places to rest at school
- Special exam arrangements to manage anxiety or fatigue

7. Reintegration

When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, The School will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the Local Authority and parents/carers.

The School will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.

For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil and their parents in the early stages of their absence.

The School is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents/carers, the local authority and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

The School will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

8. Monitoring and Review

The appointed named person in school for monitoring the provision of children with health needs who cannot attend school is the School's Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Attendance and Medical Needs.