# Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand.

# Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

*We want to ensure your needs are met. If you would like this document in any other format, please contact us:* office@ladyj.kent.sch.uk

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| **Reviewed** | **December 2025** |
| **Date of next review** | **December 2026** |
| **Reviewer** | **Kristen Weiss, Deputy Headteacher & Rachael Foster, Headteacher** |
| **Chair of Governors** | **James Coumbe** |

*Article 23- If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education.*

# 1. Aims

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.
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority: Children with long-term illness

# 3. The responsibilities of the school

Under 2013 Government statutory guidance, the local authority requires us as a school, to make the necessary arrangements or adjustments to how we provide suitable education to meet their health needs for short hospital stays or illnesses. Where a child is unable to go to their school because they are in hospital for a prolonged period or they have a long-term medical condition, the local authority may become involved in helping them continue their education (See Section 3.2).

## 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

We will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- In the first instance, this will be led by the child's class teacher, who will contact the parents/carers to arrange appropriate learning tasks and activities. Where a child also has Special Educational Needs or a disability, our school SENCo will be involved in offering advice and guidance. Where a child cannot attend school for a prolonged period of time, their progress will be monitored by the SLT within the school's Pupil Progress Meetings.
- Arrangements for learning could involve sending home paper copies of key tasks and activities, classroom resources and books and/or provision via our online learning platforms. Where a child has to remain in hospital, contact will be made with the staff at the hospital school so that suitable learning activities can be set.
- Consultation on these arrangements will always be held with the parents/carers as well as the child, to ensure that everyone involved understands what learning will be provided, how this can be accessed and what the expectations are around completing it and sending it back to the teacher. Typically Zoom/Teams meetings will be used to provide a degree of continuity for the child to remain in contact with school.
- When a child's health has reached a point where they are able to reintegrate back into school, this process will again be planned in consultation with the parents/carers (and health professionals where relevant) to

ensure that a suitable timetable is established whereby the length of time in school and the activities the child engages in, are appropriate to the needs and well-being of the child.

## 3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If, due to the long-term nature of an illness, we can't make suitable arrangements, Kent County Council will become responsible for arranging education for these children.

This may include:

- home tuition
- education at a local centre or other office
- education in hospital.

For some children, the local authority may recommend that we refer your child to the Rosewood School who will then get in touch with you if your child is eligible for their help.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- 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
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- 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

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## 4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Inclusion Lead. At every review, it will be approved by the Headteacher.

## 5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions