



Wittersham Church of England Primary School - Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy 2025

We strive to cooperate and work alongside all members of our community to feel valued, nurtured, and empowered as they embark upon their journey to become the very best that God intended. Throughout their voyage of discovery with us, we ensure all children are provided with a rich curriculum, and experiences that promote courage and a strong moral purpose underpinned by our Christian values; preparing them to become compassionate citizens within our rural community and the wider world

Revision History

Version	Date	By	Description
V02	October 2022	G. Hawkins	Policy update
V03	October 2023	G.Hawkins	Annual Review
V04	October 2024	Stella Coulson	Annual Review
V05	September 2025	Stella Coulson	Annual Review

Aim

Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs. Pupils, staff, and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA).

Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- 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

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies on health and welfare, including but not limited to:

- First Aid Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy

'On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.'

- Policy for Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs

Principles

Wittersham Church of England Primary School is committed to educating every child, including when pupils are unable to attend school regularly due to medical needs.

The SENCO will lead in relevant cases with the support of the headteacher and other appropriate staff. The primary aim is to minimise disruption to pupils' education by continuing learning as normally as their health needs allow.

Pupils with medical needs should have access to suitable and flexible education appropriate to their individual situation. Provision must be responsive to changes in medical status.

Working with the relevant local authority, the school must ensure suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate) is arranged for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not otherwise receive it. This applies whether a child cannot attend school at all or attends only intermittently.

The law does not define "full-time" education, but the provision should be equivalent to that received in school. In cases of one-to-one tuition, fewer hours may be appropriate as teaching is more concentrated.

If full-time provision is not in a child's best interest due to their physical or mental health, the local authority should provide part-time education, judged in the child's best interests. Both full and part-time arrangements should still aim for good academic progress, particularly in English, Maths, and Science.

Some children with health needs may still receive suitable education through school-based support without local authority intervention. This may be through attendance at school with adjustments, or an alternative provision organised by the school.

All cases will be treated individually. Wherever possible, pupils will be involved in decisions, with approaches tailored to their age and maturity.

'On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.'

Working with External Organisations

Wittersham Church of England Primary School will work with external organisations as required, including:

- CAMHS
- Professional medical services
- NHS or private GPs and specialists
- Hospital schools
- The Local Authority

In Kent, pupils may be referred to the Health Needs Education Team (or similar service). This team supports children with acute and chronic health needs and works with families, carers, and schools to:

- provide teaching, training, and assessment
- support inclusion
- reduce hospital admissions and re-admissions
- reduce school absence by enabling medical interventions such as intravenous therapy to take place at home or school
- promote self-care in chronic conditions
- act as advocates for pupils and families

The school will always ensure that any external educational provision meets safeguarding standards before a pupil begins study with that organisation.

Provision

Arrangements for pupils with health needs must be flexible and regularly reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the child's needs. The school will work in partnership with parents and carers, the local authority, and medical/educational professionals to secure the best outcomes.

'On a voyage of discovery; learning and growing together in the light of God.'

Education of pupils with life-limiting or terminal illness

The local authority is expected to provide education for as long as the pupil's parents and medical staff consider it appropriate. If the pupil and parents wish to withdraw from education, their wishes will be respected, provided medical advice supports this.

Working Together – Parents/Carers, Pupils, Health Services and Local Authority

Any educational provision for a child with additional health needs will always be discussed with parents or carers first. Parents have a vital role in their child's education and can provide information to ensure that teaching approaches are effective. For looked-after children, local authority representatives and primary carers will take on this role. Pupils will also be included in decisions, with engagement adapted to their age and maturity.

Reintegration into School

When reintegration into school is anticipated, the school will work closely with external organisations, including the local authority, to ensure pupils are supported effectively. Meetings will be held with parents and appropriate professionals to plan the process.

A gradual reintegration, often involving a reduced timetable, may be appropriate. Professionals may work alongside pupils as they return to ensure continuity and to support confidence in rejoining school life.

Pupils coping with self-harm or eating disorders will be expected to attend an appointment with CAMHS or another suitable consultant before returning, to ensure it is safe for them to attend school. If delays occur in accessing appointments, the school will provide appropriate work until medical clearance is received.