

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



With Jesus as our guide

We promise to care for one another

To work hard

To build a community in Christ's Love

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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](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Legal Requirements 3.1 Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2015) sets out the duties for local authorities, schools and providers 3.2 Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (2013) outlines the statutory duties of the local authority in regard to the provision of education for children who, because of illness, would not receive suitable provision 3.3 SEND Code of Practice: 0 – 25 years (2015) outlines the application for and of an EHCP 3.4 Section 13A (1) states that “A local education authority in England must ensure that their relevant education functions are (so far as they are capable of being so exercised) exercised by the authority with a view to – (a) promoting high standards, (b) ensuring fair access to opportunity and training and (c) promoting fulfilment of learning potential ...” 3.5 The Equality Act 2010 states in Section 85(2) that “The responsible body of a school must not discriminate against a pupil (c) by not providing education for the pupil” and Section 85 (6) that there is “A duty to make reasonable adjustments ...

3. The responsibilities of the school.

Most children with medical needs continue to successfully access education with the right support in place. Schools can adapt and access support, so that children continue to attend by using support aids, reduced or adapted timetables, or obtaining additional support from wider agencies.

Schools and educational settings follow the advice within the DfE advice when they are supporting children with medical needs in schools. It outlines the responsibilities of schools, local authorities and parents, and the legal duty of working together to support children, ensuring they remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

Part-time education and timetables

In line with the [DfE school attendance guidance](#), all pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education.

Schools are permitted to provide less than a full-time education only in very exceptional circumstances. This can be, for example, where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is a part of a re-integration package. This shouldn't be treated as a long-term plan and an end-date, when the child will return to school, must be set.

If a pupil has a serious medical condition, where recovery is the priority outcome, these arrangements would be part of a medical plan, agreed between the school and health professionals.

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a statutory duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units to make arrangements at school to support pupils with medical conditions. A child's mental and physical health should be properly supported in school, so that the pupil can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential. Governing bodies should ensure that all schools develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and school staff.

Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.

Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions. In doing so it should ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child.

Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/ carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical needs are effectively supported. Individual healthcare plans can help to ensure that schools effectively support pupils with medical conditions. They provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom. The school, healthcare professional and parent should agree, based on evidence, when a healthcare plan would be inappropriate or disproportionate. Where the child has a special educational need identified in a statement or EHC plan, the individual healthcare plan should be linked to or become part of that statement or EHC plan.

Continuity is important for children and young people and knowing that they are able to return to familiar surroundings and peers can help both their recovery and their educational progress. Therefore, a child unable to attend school because of health or medical needs must not be removed from the school register without the consent of the parent/ carer and certification from the school medical officer, even if the local authority has become responsible for the child's education.

Consideration should be given to how children will reintegrate back into school following periods of absence. The governing body should ensure that arrangements give parents/ carers and pupils confidence in the ability of the school to provide effective support for medical conditions in school, arrangements should show an understanding of how medical needs impact on the child's ability to learn as well as to increase confidence and promote self-care. Staff should be properly trained to support the pupils needs.

Schools do not have to wait for a formal diagnosis before providing support to pupils.

Supporting a child with a medical condition during school hours is not the sole responsibility of one person and governing bodies should ensure that sufficient staff have received suitable training and are competent before they take on the responsibility to support a child or young person with medical needs.

Schools must consider whether they need to provide any reasonable adjustments to ensure suitable access for the child or young person.

For pupils who have medical conditions that require EHC plans, compliance with the SEND Code of Practice will ensure compliance with this guidance with respect to those children.

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.

- The Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- What sort of arrangements could be made: (e.g. sending work home, hospital schools): inclusion for online lessons at the parental and pupil request: through Zoom/ MS teams.
- Parents/ children will be phoned/ contacted through class dojo to make arrangements
- Pupils will be reintegrated back into school after a discussion with pupils/ parents: this may be phased on a reduced timetable.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Leicestershire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. See the LCC page on the website as to how to make a referral.

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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head teacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

(The DfE advises that you review this policy annually, in its [list of statutory policies.](#))

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions and administering medicines
- SEND and Inclusion policy