

# Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy



The Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School approved this policy on March 2021.

## Contents

<a href="#">1. Aims</a> .....	2
<a href="#">2. Legislation and guidance</a> .....	2
<a href="#">3. The responsibilities of the school</a> .....	2
<a href="#">4. Monitoring arrangements</a> .....	4
<a href="#">5. Links to other policies</a> .....	4

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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](#).

### 3. The responsibilities of the school

Schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, as in the rest of the country, (including maintained schools, maintained nursery schools, academies, alternative provision academies) are required by law to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

This duty is detailed in [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#) and statutory guidance entitled [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) has been produced by the Department for Education in order to assist schools to understand and comply with this legislation.

The key points detailed in the statutory guidance indicate that:

- 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.
- 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 conditions are effectively supported.

The statutory guidance details that Governing Bodies must make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions in school. All schools should ensure that there is a named person who is responsible for the practical implementation of this policy within each school. At St Joseph's that person is the SENCO.

### 4. 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 SENCO is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

Arrangements could include:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.
- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision. 'Hard and fast' rules are inappropriate: they may limit the offer of education to children with a given condition and prevent their access to the right level of educational support which they are well enough to receive. Strict rules that limit the offer of education a child receives may also breach statutory requirements.
- 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, 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, Maths and Science. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Where appropriate, use electronic media – such as 'virtual classrooms', learning platforms and so on – to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child's health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).
- Ensure that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to a child's health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Set up a personal education plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school or other provider can work together.
- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will:

- 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

## **5. If the local authority makes arrangements**

The statutory guidance is clear that in most circumstances where a child has a health need they will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. In many cases this will be 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. Where this is not the case for a compulsory school age child, the Local Authority has a responsibility to see that arrangements are put into place for that child to access suitable full-time education. This duty applies to all children and young people who live in the Local Authority.

Agreement on the education provision for the child will be made with reference to advice from relevant educational and medical professionals, and in consultation with the young person, carer and school.

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

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

As advised by the DfE, this policy will be reviewed annually by the Full Governing Body.

## **7. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions