



St. Antony's Catholic Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

School Mission Statement

'God is at the heart of our school. With the help of our community, we will strive to learn, love and achieve.'

Policy Date: October 2024
Review Date: October 2025

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

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 or carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Local Authority (LA).

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It also based on guidance provided by our LA.

3. School Roles and Responsibilities

Initially, the school will attempt to plan to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

3.1 The governing body

The governing body is responsible for:

- ensuring arrangements for pupils who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented;
- ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of pupils are clear and understood by all;
- ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities;
- ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs are appropriately trained.

3.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for:

- working with the governing body to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs;
- working collaboratively with parents or carers and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children;
- ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon;
- appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaises with parents or carers, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care;
- ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual pupils;
- arranging appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs;
- providing 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;
- providing annual reports to the governing board on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils;

- notifying the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

3.3 The senior leader with responsibility for SEND is responsible for:

- delegating to Welfare Officer and/or Parent Support Advisor to ensure support is in place for pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs through the following tasks:
 - ensuring that there is an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) in place which has been agreed with the parents or carers, the school and relevant medical and other professionals;
 - ensuring that there is a personalised risk assessment for when the child is in school;
 - liaising with the school nurse and the child's medical professionals for medical advice;
 - actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school;
 - supplying pupils' education providers (e.g. hospital school) with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes;
 - liaising with the headteacher, education providers and parents or carers to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school;
 - keeping pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers;
 - making a referral to the Redbridge Medical and Inclusion Service if the school is unable to meet the child's educational needs and the child may meet the criteria for tuition outside school;
 - ensuring the appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to the school when a pupil is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, through dialogue with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate;
 - providing a link between pupils and their parents or carers, and the LA.

3.4 Teachers and support staff

Teachers and support staff are responsible for:

- understanding confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs;
- designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason;
- understanding their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training;
- ensuring they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs;
- ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency;
- keeping parents or carers informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

3.5 Parents or carers

Parents or carers are expected to:

- ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible;
- work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child;
- notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay;
- provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs;
- attend meetings to discuss how support for their child and reintegration into school should be planned.

3.6 In cases where the LA makes arrangements (see below), the school will:

- work constructively with the LA, providers, relevant agencies and parents or carers to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil;
- share information with the LA 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.

4. The LA's Responsibilities

The LA is not expected to become involved in arrangements where the child is able to attend school with some support, where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child or when there are arrangements in place for the child to be educated in a hospital or in an on-site hospital school.

The LA is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for pupils of compulsory school age, who because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such provision. This applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently. The aim of any education outside school for children with health needs is to minimise the interruption and disruption to the child's schooling by continuing education as normally as the child's health condition permits and to work towards their reintegration into school as soon as possible.

In Redbridge, education for children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs will be delivered by the Redbridge Behaviour and Inclusion Service.

Schools, Health and Social Care professionals, Education Welfare Officers, Special Educational Needs officers, Education Psychologists and a range of other LA professionals working with children and schools are responsible for notifying the Redbridge Behaviour and Inclusion Service of any child with health needs who may meet the criteria for tuition outside school.

All referrals will be ratified by the Head of Behaviour and Inclusion. Referrals must be accompanied by evidence from the child's treating or supervising consultant, or member of a Child and Mental Health Services team (CAMHS). The evidence should clarify why education outside school is appropriate and identify, in appropriate circumstances, a potential reintegration plan.

5. Reintegration

When reintegration is anticipated, the school will work with the LA 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.

5.1 The reintegration plan

The reintegration plan will include:

- the date for planned reintegration, once known;
- details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration;
- details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil;
- clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved;
- details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period;
- a programme of small goals leading up to reintegration;
- how the school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed, encouraging pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher and senior leader for inclusion. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

7. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance
- Data Protection
- Equality Information
- First Aid and Infection Control
- Health and Safety
- SEND
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions