St. Philip Howard
Catholic Voluntary Academy

Saint Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Lead	M Kays
Approved/Waiting Approval	M Kays
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Procedures: to be read in conjunction with DFE Guidance December 2023 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf

1. AIMS AND INTRODUCTION

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to physical or mental health needs.
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.
- Parents/carers and pupils understand the role they should play in agreeing suitable provision and on how and when a child could be reintegrated back into mainstream schooling (where relevant).
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand that this policy relates specifically to pupils who are unable to attend school due to their physical or mental health needs; the schools' Policy for 'Supporting Pupils with Special Medical Needs [amend to reflect school policy title]' relates to pupils with specific medical or health needs who can attend school.

St Philip Howard Academy aims to support the local authority and ensure that all pupils who are unable to attend school due to physical or mental health needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some pupils may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the local authority, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all pupils with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Our policies and procedures for supporting pupils in school with medical or health needs can be found in 'Supporting Pupils with Special Medical Needs

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996, Education (Pipil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, Equality Act 2010 and Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authorities.

Derbyshire County Council –

Derbyshire Supporting Children with Medical Needs

These policies comply with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

School Responsibilities

Responsibilities – Rachel Ganderton Burns –Deputy Headteacher

- Work with the Governors to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs.
- Work collaboratively with parents/carers and other professionals to develop arrangements

to meet the best interests of pupils.

- Ensure arrangements put in place to meet pupils' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
- Appoint a named member of staff who is responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaise with parents/carers, pupils, the local authority, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.
- Ensure the support put in place focuses on and meets the needs of individual pupils.
- Arrange appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Provide 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
- Provide reports to the Governors on the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to meet the health needs of pupils.
- Notify- the local authority when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
- Where school provides off site provision for a pupil ensure that all Health and Safety (such as risk assessments) and Safeguarding guidelines are implemented

Responsibilities - Sarah Pastore – Pastoral manager

- Deal with pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs.
- Actively monitor pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supply pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaise with the Headteacher, education providers and parents/carers to determine pupils' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
- Keep pupils informed about school events and encouraging communication with their peers.
- Provide a link between pupils and their parents/carers, and the local authority.

Responsibilities – Teachers and support staff

- Understand confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Design 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.
- Understand their role in supporting pupils with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensure they are aware of the needs of their pupils through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual pupil's health needs.
- Ensure they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
- Keep parents/carers informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

LOCAL AUTHORITY DUTIES

This section is in accordance with the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs December 2023 '
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941900/health_needs_guidance_accessible.pdf

Local authorities must:

- 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.

Local authorities should:

- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements for complying with the s9 duty and the policy should link to related services in the area for example, special educational needs and disability (SEND) services, child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), education welfare and attendance improvement services, educational psychologists and school nurses where relevant.
- Local authorities should have processes or policies in place which support a child in getting the right and appropriate type of provision and a good education.
- They should have processes and policies in place on how they support children and young people under and over compulsory school age access appropriate education.
- To make their policies available and published online.
- As soon as it clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of their health needs, the local authority should arrange suitable alternative provision.
- The 15 days may be consecutive or over the course of a school year.

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.

You may want to add more details on areas such as:

- Who in your school will be responsible for making the arrangements to deliver suitable education and monitoring these.
- What sort of arrangements to deliver suitable education can be made.
- How you will include and consult with parents/carers and pupils about these arrangements.
- How you will consider how you will successfully remain in touch with the pupil whilst they are away to ensure the pupil feels fully part of their home school community.
- How you will reintegrate pupils back into school.

3.2 IF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAKES ARRANGEMENTS

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, Derbyshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for the pupils.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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 pupil returning to school.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed annually by Andrea Packer Trust Strategic Attendance Manager and Trust Safeguarding Advisor. 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:

- Equality Information Advice and Guidance
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Attendance and Punctuality Policy