



ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

O R A R E L A B O R A R E S E R V I R E

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Approved by:	Board of Governors	Date: 24 th March 2026
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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 and complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

The Local Authority (RBKC) guidance is based on the DfE statutory guidance for Local Authorities on 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', which can be accessed here: DfE guidance.

This policy operates alongside, and does not replace, the school's responsibilities under safeguarding, SEND, and attendance legislation.

3. Responsibilities of the school

- Parents are advised to contact the school on the first day their child is unable to attend due to illness.
- Absences due to illness will be authorised unless the school has genuine cause for concern about the authenticity of the illness.
- The school will provide support to pupils who are absent from school because of illness for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with the pupil's parents to arrange school work as soon as the pupil is able to cope with it or part-time education at school. The school will give due consideration to which aspects of the curriculum are prioritised in consultation with the pupil, their family and relevant members of staff.
- For periods of absence that are expected to last for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year the Designated Safeguarding Lead or SENCO, who have responsibility for pupils with health needs will notify the Local Authority, who will take responsibility for the pupil and their education.
- Where absences are anticipated or known in advance, the school will liaise with the Local Authority to enable education provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.
- For hospital admissions, the appointed named members of staff will liaise with the Local Authority regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital.

- The Local Authority will set up a personal education plan (PEP) for the pupil, which will allow the school, the Local Authority and the provider of the pupil's education to work together.
- The school will monitor pupil attendance and mark registers to ensure it is clear whether a pupil is, or should be, receiving education otherwise than at school.

The school will only remove a pupil who is unable to attend school because of additional health needs from the school roll where:

- the pupil has been certified by the school's medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school, before ceasing to be of compulsory school age; and
- neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school, after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.

A pupil unable to attend school because of their health needs will not be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school's medical officer, even if the Local Authority has become responsible for the pupil's education.

Scope of Health Needs

For the purposes of this policy, a health need refers specifically to a physical and mental health condition which prevents a pupil from attending school for a prolonged period and where medical evidence indicates that attendance is not currently possible. This includes, but is not limited to, acute or chronic physical illness, recovery from surgery, or other medically diagnosed physical conditions.

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 Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENCo will be responsible for overseeing the arrangements for pupils with additional needs, but will be supported by members of the pastoral team or SEN department, where appropriate.
- Where appropriate the school will arrange to send work home or to set work through the school's online platforms. The school will endeavour to provide a laptop to access online work where possible, but this will be subject to availability.
- The school will liaise regularly with parents to monitor work being set and to ensure plans are in place for the child to reintegrate back in to school once they are medically fit to do so.
- Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas that the pupil should be covering during their absence.
- Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, RBKC (or the Local Authority in which the child resides) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

In such situations the school will liaise with the educational provider (Local Authority or hospital tuition) in order to provide as much information as possible, so that the disruption to the child's education is as little as possible. 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
- Medium term planning, programmes of study/schemes of work
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data
- Information relating to any special educational needs and/or disabilities and consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made
- Resources and materials
- 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
- Will host, where practical, review meetings with the alternative providers,
- Work with healthcare professionals, parent/carers and where appropriate the child.

Children who have been supported by the Local Authority through their absence period will receive support on their return to school through:

- Allocation of a learning mentor who will meet weekly with the child to provide academic and wellbeing support
- Bi-weekly meetings with Parents/Guardians to assess the success of the reintegration plan and make amendments where necessary
- Liaise with external partners, where appropriate, to enable greater support where appropriate
- Work with the SENCO and AHT of Pastoral Care to access additional internal support if required

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Curriculum & Catholic Life Committee for approval by the Board of Governors.

5. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures. All school policies can be seen on Teams/AllStaff/General/Files/Policies

- Attendance
- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- SEND