



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE • UNITY • SERVICE

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Governors' Committee Responsible:
Staff Member:
Review Period:
Date policy approved:
Review date:

Full Governing Body
Mrs E. O'Neill
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Signed by:

Headteacher: _____

Date: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____

CONTENTS

	TOPIC	PAGE
1	Aims	1
2	Legislation and guidance	1
3	The responsibilities of the school	2
4	The responsibilities of the local authority	2
5	Monitoring arrangements	4
6	Links to other policies	4

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](#).

Local Authorities, including Surrey LA, have a duty set out in Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and the DfE Statutory Guidance ‘Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs’ (DfE, 2013. See appendix 1) to provide education for children who cannot attend school full time due to their medical needs..

Schools should be providing support for their pupils with medical needs under their statutory duties as defined in ‘Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school’ (DfE, 2014). It is only when the pupil’s medical condition becomes too complex to manage in school that this policy would then apply.

Other related documents are The Equality Act (2010), the academies act (2010), Ofsted Common Inspection Framework (2017), ‘Alternative Provision: Statutory Guidance for local authorities (2013) School and Early Years Finance Regulations (2012).

In line with this duty, Surrey LA should oversee 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. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever the type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in Academies, Free Schools, special schools and independent schools as well as those in maintained schools.

The law does not define full-time education but children with additional health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school, “unless the pupil’s health means that full time education would not be in his or her best interests” (DfE, 2013). If they receive one-to-one tuition, for

example, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated. Full time could also be made up in one or more settings.

3. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL

Initial responsibility for alternative provision remains with the school. The nature of the intervention, the objectives and the expected outcomes and timeline to achieve the objectives will be made clear. Where reintegration to school is an objective, there will be an agreement on how to assess when the pupil is ready to return.

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 member of staff responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements will be Mrs N Green(Acting Deputy Headteacher).

In such cases the school will:

- carry out an assessment of the pupil's needs
- prepare a personalised plan for intervention, setting clear objectives for improvement and attainment, timeframes, the monitoring of progress and a baseline of the current position from which to measure progress
- plans will link to other relevant information, such as Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) for children with SEND
- provide pastoral care and support for the wellbeing and mental health of the child and the family
- review the provision offered regularly, with the family and all professionals concerned to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- work with parents and all professionals to agree reintegration plan when this is appropriate to the health needs of the child

4. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Surrey LA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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:

- 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, as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013), allows them to take appropriate qualifications, 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.

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, the school will 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

5. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

This policy will be reviewed biennially by Mrs Green Acting Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility
 Child Protection and Safeguarding
 Supporting pupils with medical conditions
 Inclusion
 SEND