

All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy

Policy Document

Policy: Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School

Prepared for: All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy

Approval

Approved by	Approval date	Review Date
Governors	November 2021	November 2022
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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 aged 11-16 who are unable to attend school due to medical reasons or severe anxiety for at least 15 days are entitled to support
- 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 the Equality Act 2010.

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/home-education/absence-due-to-illness>

And also the government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association

3. The responsibilities of the school

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, for at least 15 days. The child's Year Progress Leader, working in conjunction with the SEND team and pastoral team will make arrangements for the child's education. This could include an adapted timetable, work being sent home, being referred to the school Virtual Learning, [VLE - All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy - Mansfield](#) with the support of Absolutes, an adapted curriculum, with regular visits from the Educational Welfare Officer.

Decisions will always be made in conjunction with parents' wishes and with the guidance of outside agencies where relevant. Meetings will be held on a regular basis to set up and review provision. Children will be reintegrated back into school when appropriate, and may include; an adapted curriculum, a modified timetable, support from the pastoral team, support from the SEND team.

3.2 If the school can't make suitable arrangements,

Nottinghamshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

- Education for a child would be deemed unsuitable if the child was deemed to be missing education for an extended period.
- Education from the school would be unsuitable if the child was unable to attend school due to medical reasons for a substantial period of time.
- The school would make a referral to the local authority HRET (Health Related Educational) team.

The Health Related Education Team provides short term education for pupils aged 11–16 who live in Nottinghamshire and who are temporarily unable to attend school for health related reasons.

Pupils, aged 11 – 16, who are unable to attend school for at least 15 days due to medical reasons or severe anxiety are entitled to the provision. Referral to the team is made by the pupil's school or by hospital staff and should be supported by a consultant and/ or community paediatrician in the case of physical/ medical situations or by evidence of a graduated response by the school where anxiety is the main cause of school non-attendance. Children of school age who have an extended stay at King's Mill Hospital and are fit to access education are also offered provision.

Our team of qualified and experienced teachers and teaching assistants work closely with schools to provide a suitable education programme for pupils. Teaching sessions may take place in the home or in a suitable alternative venue. Programmes are reviewed on a 4-6 weekly basis and staff liaise with school, health professionals and other supporting agencies to plan and support a pupil's return to school.

The support will be **for up to a maximum of 12 weeks** and will consist of 5 hours plus supported independent study. Where longer-term support is needed at the end of the 12 weeks of HRET involvement, this will be provided by the pupil's school (see section 3.1)

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, 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Medical Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy