Pupils with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Approved by:	SPL Local Governing Board	Date: September 2026
Next review due by:	September 2027	

Our Mission

Forming Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge, and a hunger for justice.

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For the purposes of this policy, references to "parents/carers" shall be taken to include all individuals who hold parental responsibility for a child, as well as those who have been formally delegated authority to make day-to-day decisions in respect of the child (including, but not limited to, kinship carers and foster carers).

References to the Headteacher within this policy shall be read as references to the Principal, where this is the title used within the school.

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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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- Alternative provision
- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority - Supporting children who are unable to attend their education setting (Section 19 of the Education Act 1996) policy.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- **Who at St Peter's is responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements?**

  The Principal, SENDCo and the pupil's Class Teacher will work in partnership with the pupil and their parents/carers to understand the impact of the pupil's health condition on their ability to attend school and to agree appropriate arrangements to support their education and wellbeing.

Where appropriate, advice may be sought from relevant healthcare professionals, Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Warwickshire Local Authority's Medical Education Team or other appropriate services. Where a pupil is supported by a specialist consultant, hospital team or other healthcare professional, the school may liaise with them, with appropriate parental consent, to ensure that the pupil's needs are understood and appropriately supported.

The Principal and SENDCo will oversee and monitor the agreed arrangements, working collaboratively with the pupil, parents/carers, Class Teacher and relevant professionals. Arrangements will be reviewed regularly and whenever there is a significant change in the pupil's health, circumstances or ability to access education.

What sort of arrangements could be made?

St Peter's will seek advice from Warwickshire Local Authority's Medical Education Team (Access to Education for Children with Medical Needs) where appropriate. The support provided will be tailored to the individual pupil's medical needs and circumstances.

Depending on the pupil's needs, arrangements may include:

- appropriate adjustments to the pupil's timetable, learning environment or school day;
- access to learning remotely, where appropriate and practicable;
- live remote participation in lessons, where appropriate;
- work packs, resources or learning activities provided for completion at home;
- regular contact with the pupil and family to maintain the pupil's connection with school;
- appropriate opportunities for the pupil to maintain relationships with their peers and school community; and
- liaison with parents/carers, healthcare professionals and other relevant services to support continuity of education and a planned return to school.

The nature and extent of support will be determined according to the pupil's individual circumstances, medical advice and educational needs.

How will St Peter's consult parents and pupils about these arrangements?

St Peter's will work in partnership with the pupil and their parents/carers when planning support for a pupil who is unable to attend school because of a health condition. An initial meeting will normally be held with the Principal, SENDCo, Class Teacher, pupil and parents/carers, as appropriate, to discuss the pupil's circumstances, educational needs and wellbeing and agree suitable arrangements.

Where appropriate, relevant healthcare professionals and other agencies will be consulted, with appropriate parental consent. An Individual Healthcare Plan may be developed where required, with the involvement of the pupil and their parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals. A review date will be agreed to consider the effectiveness of the arrangements and make any necessary amendments. Arrangements will also be reviewed following any significant change in the pupil's medical needs, treatment or circumstances.

The pupil's views will be considered in an age- and developmentally appropriate way throughout the process.

How will the pupil be re-integrated back into school?

Where a pupil has been unable to attend school because of a health condition, St Peter's will work with the pupil, parents/carers and relevant healthcare professionals to support a safe, appropriate and planned return to school.

Where appropriate, a reintegration meeting will be held before or upon the pupil's return. Advice may be sought from Warwickshire Local Authority's Medical Education Team, the pupil's healthcare team or other relevant professionals to inform an individualised reintegration plan.

The plan will take account of the pupil's health and wellbeing, medical needs, readiness to return, learning needs and any reasonable adjustments or additional support required.

The arrangements will be reviewed following the pupil's return and adapted as necessary to support their successful reintegration and continued access to education.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Warwickshire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

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

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
  - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
  - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
  - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

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

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND policy