



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Date of issue	February 2023
Renewal date	February 2024
Responsible for this policy	Linda Kennedy

To nurture and inspire our children to develop a love of learning in a supportive Christian community and become the best they can be

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Introduction

This policy sets out how St Michael's C of E Primary School will comply with its statutory duty to arrange suitable full-time (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

Aims

Our intention is that all children, regardless of circumstances or education setting, should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Therefore, alternative provision for children medically unfit to attend school, and the framework surrounding that provision, should offer good quality education. This support should meet the child's individual needs, including social and emotional needs, and enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system. The policy aims to ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Legislation and guidance

This policy is in accordance with the Department for Education statutory guidance. This policy has due regard to all relevant and statutory guidance including the following:

DFE [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#)

DFE [supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#).

In Haringey local authority, when a child would benefit from support outside of the school setting, schools can commission Alternative Provision (AP) as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013).

Haringey states that students in alternative provision should receive the same amount of education as they would receive in a maintained school, unless it is not appropriate, for example for a student with a medical condition.

The responsibilities of the school

Where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and consider how their needs be best met in conjunction the local authority, relevant medical professionals and where appropriate the pupil.

The school remains responsible for the monitoring and tracking of attainment, attendance, behaviour and safeguarding of their students placed in alternative provision.

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.

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The school will provide support to children who are absent for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with pupils parents/carers to arrange schoolwork as soon as the pupil is able to manage it or with part time or remote education.

For periods of absence that are expected to last more than 15 school days, either in one absence or over the course of a year, the named person with responsibility for the pupil's health needs, Linda Kennedy, will notify the local authority.

Where absences are known or anticipated, the school will liaise with the local authority to enable educational provision to be provided from the start of the pupil's absence.

For hospital admissions, the named person will liaise with the local authority regarding the programme that should be followed while the pupil is in hospital and may liaise with the hospital school.

School will monitor pupil attendance to ensure it is clear whether a pupil should be receiving education otherwise than at school.

Identification of children who need provision

Children may need alternative provision to meet their health needs if they are identified as/diagnosed with:

- Having an illness which will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged.
- Having a health need and their absence has been validated as necessary by a medical professional, either a consultant community paediatrician or specialist consultant psychiatrist from CAMHS.
- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health difficulties.
- Experiencing progressive conditions.
- Chronic illnesses.
- Terminal illnesses.

Supporting Children

Supporting children is best done in partnership.

St Michael's will collaborate with alternative providers, parents/carers, the local authority and all relevant health services to ensure the delivery of effective education for children with additional health needs.

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Parents and carers have a key role to play in their child's education and are to be involved in planning and on-going review. Children should also be involved in decisions to ensure they are engaged as much as possible in this process.

Relevant services including Special Educational Needs (SEN), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Education Inclusion/Attendance/Improvement Services, Educational Psychologists and school nurses all have responsibilities to work together to support children who are medically unfit to attend school.

If the local authority makes arrangements

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

The local authority should:

- Provide such education as soon as it's clear the child will be away for 15 days or more, whether it's consecutive or cumulative. It should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to arrange appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education provided is of good quality as defined in the statutory guidance Alternative Provision (2013).
- Address the needs of the child in arranging provision.

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:

- 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. These plans may include:

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- A personalised or part time timetable.
- Access to additional support in school.
- Online access to the curriculum from home.
- Movement of lessons to more accessible rooms, if possible.
- A place to rest at school.
- Exam arrangements to manage fatigue or anxiety.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Linda Kennedy, Inclusion Lead. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

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