



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Date of issue | January 2025 |
| Renewal date | January 2026 |
| Responsible for this policy | Andrea Batten |

*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 reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#), and 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.

At St. Michael's C of E Primary School, we understand that unforeseen circumstances such as illness can disrupt a child's education. In compliance with our statutory duty, this policy outlines how we address the educational needs of children of compulsory school age during such challenging times.

Aims

Our goal is to provide a quality education for all children, regardless of their circumstances or learning environment, empowering them to carve out their own bright futures. Consequently, alternative provision for children facing challenges in attending school due to medical reasons, along with its supporting framework, is crafted to provide high quality education. This support caters to the individual needs of each child, fostering not only their academic growth but also nurturing their social and emotional well-being. Our policy aims to provide clarity to the roles and responsibilities of the school, pupils, staff, and parents, when the local authority is involved to ensure this education is delivered.

Legislation and guidance

This policy aligns with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education. It takes into consideration all applicable and relevant statutory guidance, encompassing the following:

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

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

In Haringey, 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 Local Offer 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.

Alternative provision must meet the needs of students and enable them to achieve 'good' to 'outstanding' educational attainment level with their mainstream peers, while the needs which require intervention are addressed."
[Haringey Alternative Provision](#)

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

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 with 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 the pupil 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. This could include access to remote learning or work being sent home.

The school will provide support to children who are absent for a period of less than 15 school days by liaising with pupil's 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, **Andrea Batten**, 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.

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

- Experiencing progressive conditions.
- Chronic illnesses.
- Terminal illnesses.

Supporting Children

Supporting children is best done in partnership with parents/carers and relevant agencies.

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.

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 cannot 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

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

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:
 - A tailored risk assessment
 - 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 Andrea Batten, 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, which can be found on the school website, [St Michael's Policies](#):

Accessibility plan

Attendance Policy

SEND Policy

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

At St Michael's we recognise the crucial role education plays in a child's development, we are committed to fostering a collaborative partnership with families to address any challenges that may arise due to health concerns. Your child's well-being and educational journey is our utmost priority, and we are here to support and navigate through any obstacles together.

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