

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy



We live, love and learn together in the light of God by...

Praying together

Learning together

Playing together

And

Respecting each other

Approved by: Linda Mockler

Date: 10th July 2025

Next review due by: July 2026

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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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

When emerging patterns of absence or a pupil is considered persistently absent (see Attendance policy) Holy Family School will contact Birmingham City Council medical needs service for advice.

In instances where medical advice has been sought and the resulting advice from medical professionals is that the child cannot attend school but is able to access work elsewhere (eg. Home or hospital) then the below applies:

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.

Catriona McHugh (Deputy Headteacher) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements. Such arrangements could include sending work home or liaising with hospital schools. Parents/Carers and where possible pupils will be consulted about these arrangements. Once a pupil is able to return to school the assistant heads will be responsible for ensuring a reintegration plan is in place for the pupil.

3.2 If the local authority makes 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, Birmingham City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, 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 to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- 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 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 Linda Mockler, Chair of Governors. 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
- Attendance policy