



St Jude & St Paul's
Church of England Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Date: Autumn 2023

Lead: Head Teacher /Assistant Head -Designated Safeguarding Lead

Review: Autumn 2024

Our School Vision

'Shine, Encourage, Love and Learn'

Jesus said, **"You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."** (MATTHEW 5: 14-16)

We aspire to **shine** as lights in the world as we journey together. We ask for God's **blessing** to:

- **Encourage**, through valuing and celebrating diversity;
- **Love**, so that we may flourish as one, nurturing the unique contributions of all, impacting positively on our world;
- **Learn**, so that we develop a love of learning, aiming for excellence in all we do.

Our core values: Forgiveness, Love, Encouragement, Wisdom and Togetherness

Statement of intent

St Jude and St Pauls aims to support the LA and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

1. Introduction

St Jude and St Paul's Primary School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home.

Our School will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013.

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

This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

2. The principles underlying this policy:

- St Jude and St Paul's recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

3. School's Responsibility

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.

When an absence is known to be more than 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child. This may be provided through the Local Authority.

Referral for home tuition can be made by telephone or electronically. Medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, the school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

St Jude and St Paul's will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the pupil by providing:

- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, the school will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility.

Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the school will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

4. Reintegration into the School

The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, personal advisers, all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.

The school will ensure that the pupils and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.

The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.

The school will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required from the SEND devolved budget or via review and referral to the SEND panel.

Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and at school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail. Both the LA and the education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence.

The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from the service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Headteacher or Assistant Head for Inclusion, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

5. Monitoring

The Assistant Head for Inclusion will monitor this policy with the support of the Headteacher. This policy will be reviewed annually.

The Assistant Head is involved in supporting teachers who draw up intervention plans for children.