



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Children with health needs who cannot attend school

Approved by
Governing body
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1. Aims

The Government's policy intention is that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Therefore, alternative provision and the framework surrounding it should offer good quality education on par with that of mainstream schooling, along with the support pupils need to overcome barriers to attainment. This support should meet a pupil's individual needs, including social and emotional needs, and enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system.

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

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority. The local authority has delegated the responsibility for the education of children with additional health needs which cannot be met in a school setting to St Joseph's School. The [hospital medical policy and referral form](#) is for Derbyshire County Council schools to use if they have a pupil who is unable to attend school due to health reasons.

Completed referral forms are then sent to OOST@derbyshire.gov.uk

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

3. Responsibilities of the school

Initially, the school will attempt to make necessary arrangements and all reasonable adjustments to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot

attend school. This includes earlier intervention and identification of barriers, meetings, home visits and possible use of virtual /online provision.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

In the first instance, the Class Teacher will be responsible for providing this support with guidance from the SENDCO and Attendance/Pastoral Lead. Class work will be sent on a weekly basis to the pupil's home (if they are at home) or delivered virtually and online predominantly via email or MS Teams. In the case of a pupil accessing the hospital school provision, the SENDCO and Attendance/Pastoral Lead will liaise with the hospital teacher to support the learning wherever possible. Weekly check-ins with the family will be offered to ensure that the work is pitched at the correct level and that it is supporting the well-being of the pupil.

When the child is due to return to school, there will be an agreed, personal transition package to ensure a steady and successful re-integration back to school. This will be agreed by SENDCO, Attendance/Pastoral Lead, parents and carers, school, medical staff and the pupil. It will be monitored weekly thereafter. It may be, under complex circumstances, we may use modified timetables to support pupils' reintegration back into fulltime education.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, and school's attempts to find alternative provision have not proved appropriate, Derbyshire County Council, will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

Within Derbyshire County Council this provision is made through referral to the Hospital and Medical team. Our SENDCO will support through making necessary referrals and ensuring funding is applied for if necessary.

Education would be arranged by the LA for the following pupils:

- Those admitted to Derbyshire Hospitals and resident on a ward but well enough to be taught; returning for regular treatment as out-patients or have been specifically referred by a hospital-based consultant.
- Provision for those children and young people of compulsory school age referred through Secondary Placement Panel who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies parents and carers 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 pupil 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 phone calls, emails, invitations to school events and MS Teams check-ins.
- 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 the SENDCo. 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