



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Pupils with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Our family at St Joseph's Learns, Loves & Grows
with God at the Centre.

Reviewed and agreed at FGB	28 th November 2024
Next Revision	Annually
To be reviewed	Autumn Term 2025

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

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. The responsibilities of the school

St. Joseph's School commits itself to provide pupils with a high-quality education regardless of their individual circumstances, health needs or disability. All pupils need to be able to access as much education as their particular medical condition allows so that they maintain the momentum of their learning whether they are attending school or going through periods of treatment and recuperation.

We promote inclusion and will make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that pupils and young people with a disability, health need or SEN are not discriminated against or treated less favourably than other pupils.

Principles

This policy and any ensuing procedures and practices are based on the following principles: -

- All pupils are entitled to a high-quality education
- Disruption to the education of pupils with health needs should be minimised
- If pupils can be in school, they should be in school. Pupils' diverse personal, social and educational needs are most often best met in school. Our school will make reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable all pupils to attend school
- Effective partnership working and collaboration between schools, families, education services, health services and all agencies involved with the child or young person are essential to achieving the best outcomes for the pupils
- Pupils with health needs often have additional social and emotional needs Attending to these additional needs is an integral element in the care and support that the child/young person requires; and that: -
- Pupils with health needs are treated as individuals, and are offered the level and type of support that is most appropriate for their circumstances; staff should strive to be responsive to the needs of the individual

Pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs. The nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.

Where a pupil is returning to school following a period of hospital education or alternative provision (including home tuition), the school will work with the appropriate hospital or Islington Education Authority Home Tuition Service to ensure that the individual healthcare plan identifies the support the student will need to reintegrate effectively.

Home Tuition

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for pupils with health needs who cannot attend school.

Where pupils are too ill to attend, the school will establish, where possible, the amount of time a student may be absent and identify ways in which the school can support the student in the short term (e.g. providing work to be done at home in the first instance).

The school will make a referral to the Home Tuition Service within their residing borough as soon as they become aware that a student is likely to be or has been absent for 15 school days.

Where pupils have long-term health needs, the pattern of illness and absence from school can be unpredictable, so the most appropriate form of support for these pupils should be discussed and agreed between the school, the family, Education Welfare Service and the relevant medical professionals (see specific examples in the appendixes)

Providing work at home

Where a pupil is off school for less than 15 days it is the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher to ensure subject specific work is sent home, including the use of different learning platforms. A record of work sent home should be recorded in the pupils file.

For a pupil who will be off school for more than 15 days the designated safeguarding lead person will liaise with the local authority, family and other professionals.

See Appendix 1 for details of their responsibilities.

Communication with home should also be recorded in the student file/in sims with due regard to GDPR e.g. Request made to Securing Education Board referral for Home Tuition.

Home tuition referrals

Referral to Islington Education Authority home tuition is via the Securing Education Board which meets once a month.

Islington Education Authority follows the pathways indicated below in order to ensure clarity and fairness of procedures. Within these pathways, all pupils with health needs will receive consideration and appropriate school support based on their individual requirements.

The criteria for home tuition support are: -

- The student is a resident of the London Borough of Islington; and

- The student is of compulsory school age; and
- The student is (due to be) temporarily absent for at least 15 consecutive school days because of medical reasons, including mental health

OR

- The pupils long term medical condition causes them to be absent for at least 15 days over the course of the current academic year

AND

- The referral is supported by medical evidence from a specialist medical consultant of the need for home tuition (evidence from a GP is not appropriate)

Other local authorities have different procedures and requests should be made directly to the pupils residing authority

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, 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

Reintegration back to school

When reintegration into school is anticipated, LA's should work with the school (and hospital school, PRU/home tuition services (if appropriate) to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school. As far as possible, the pupils should be able to access the curriculum and materials that she would have used in school.

The LA should work with schools to ensure that pupils can successfully remain in touch with their school while they are away. This could be through school newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school.

LA's should work with schools to set up an individually tailored reintegration plan for each student. This may have to include extra support to help fill any gaps arising from the student's absence. It may be appropriate to involve the school nurse at this stage as they may be able to offer valuable advice.

The school nurse will also want to be aware that the student is returning to school, so that they can be prepared to offer any appropriate support. Under equalities legislation schools must consider whether they need to make a reasonable adjustment to provide suitable access for the student.

Where the absence is likely to be lengthy, the reintegration plan may only take shape nearer to the likely date of return, to avoid putting unsuitable pressure on an ill student in the early stages of their absence. While most pupils will want to return to their previous school routine at once, some will need gradual reintegration over a longer period.

5. Links to other policies

This first aid policy is linked to the

- Health and safety policy
- Risk assessment policy
- Policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Intimate Care Policy

Appendix 1

A child/young person of compulsory school age has a health need that is disrupting their education.

<p>a) Short-term health need (below 15 days' consecutive absence)</p>	<p>School is responsible for sending work home and monitoring its completion.</p>
<p>b) Short-term health need (15 days or more consecutive absence)</p>	<p>School completes and send referral for Home Tuition. This should be done as soon as the length of absence is known to exceed 15 days.</p> <p>Education may be: home tuition / hospital school/medical PRU/ online tuition</p> <p>Tuition is put in place (when the criteria are met);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by the school • Review every 4-6 weeks • Reintegration into school supported by the form tutor, where appropriate
<p>c) Long term health need (intermittent or long absences absences)</p>	<p>School convenes a meeting of all the relevant professionals (school staff, school nurse, attendance officer, specialist teacher for medical needs, Home Tuition Team etc.) plus the family discuss the pupils' needs and to agree a support plan.</p> <p>A key worker, who can be the referring agent / or another designated person will be identified at this meeting to coordinate the support plan.</p> <p>Education may involve home tuition / attendance at the medical PRU or online tuition</p>
<p>d) Emotional/Mental Health</p>	<p>The support plan may involve some home tuition. The decision whether to implement home tuition will be considered on a pupil-by-pupil basis and will always be based on what is in the best interests of the child/young person.</p> <p>Education may be: home tuition / hospital school/medical PRU/ online tuition</p>
<p>e) Complex / Other</p>	<p>The support plan may not involve home tuition but may involve in-school support for the pupil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support plan sets out how the pupils health needs are to be met ○ Support plan regularly reviewed