



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

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Date agreed by governing body on:	Date agreed for review: November 2025
Frequency of Review: Annually	Responsibility for Review: PPC Committee/Headteacher

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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/carers 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: <https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance-and-exclusions/education-support-pupils-who-are-too-ill-attend-policy>

3. Responsibilities of the school

When there is a concern that an absence period will be longer than a term, the school would need to liaise with the pupil's family and medical professionals to secure evidence of the illness and to demonstrate that attendance cannot occur for medical reasons.

There is a need for a close and collaborative working approach between the school, the family, the pupil, the local authority and the medical professionals in order to secure evidence, receive status updates and to ensure that the pupil reintegrates back to full time, mainstream education at the earliest opportunity. Information needs to be shared between all parties to guarantee that all the professionals involved with the child are aware of any daily developments.

In the event of a pupil having a 'looked after child' status, then the local authority or carer would fulfil the position of the parent within any discussions and arrangements.

3.1 If the school makes the arrangements

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

- › The AHT (Inclusion)/SENCO will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- › Where possible, online learning will be provided on a daily basis
- › Parents and children will be consulted about these arrangements
- › A meeting of professionals will be scheduled prior to the pupil's return to school to ensure that all necessary health and safety measures are in place, and a reintegration meeting with the pupil, parent/carers and other core professional/s will take place just prior to the pupil's return to school.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Lambeth will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

This would be arranged in conjunction with Lambeth's Inclusion team.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/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 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 the AHT (Inclusion)/SENCO. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Disability Equality Scheme and Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions