

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school Policy



“Doing our best for God”

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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 reflects the requirements of the following:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting students at school with medical conditions'

3. Local Authority

Local Authorities must:

Arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This duty applies to all children and young people who would normally attend mainstream schools, including Academies, Free Schools, independent schools and special schools, or where a child is not on the roll of a school. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can only attend intermittently.

The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive one-to-one tuition the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.

Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, LA's should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.

The LA must not withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.

There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – for example where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child. (See '*Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions*', Statutory Guidance, (DfE; 2014)).

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Blackpool Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. In this case, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the student.
- 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 phased return plans for each child returning to school.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. The Responsibility for St Bernadette's

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

- The child's Class Teacher, working in conjunction with the SMT, SENCo and FSW, will make arrangements for the child's education.
- That this may include an adapted timetable and curriculum, work being sent home and work being set online.

- Any decisions will always be made in conjunction with parents' wishes and with the guidance of outside agencies where relevant. Meetings will be held on a regular basis to set up and review provision.

- Children will receive a phased return back into school when appropriate, and may include; an adapted curriculum, a modified timetable, support from the SENCo, FSW and any outside agencies that are involved in the child's care including the Local Authority.

5. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SMT/SENCo/FSW. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy works alongside the following school policies:

- Accessibility plan
- SEND Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions

Signed: *Karen Pearson* (Assistant Headteacher)

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