



# **St Nicholas**

# **Catholic High School**

## **Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy**

To be read in conjunction with:

- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

## Version Control

| Current version | Previous version | Summary of changes made            |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
|                 |                  | New Policy as required by DfE 2019 |
|                 |                  |                                    |

| Policy Impact Statement                  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Policy:</b>                           |                           |
| <b>This Policy has been implemented:</b> |                           |
| Fully                                    |                           |
| Partially                                |                           |
| Occasionally                             |                           |
| Not at all (give reasons why)            |                           |
|  |                           |
| <b>What revisions need to be made:</b>   |                           |
| To the Policy?                           | See Version Control Above |
| To its implementation?                   |                           |

## **Intent**

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

The Local authority guidance states that “All Children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have and schools have a statutory duty to provide full time education for all students.”

St Nicholas Catholic High School aims to support the Local Authority 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, students should receive their education within their school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate students back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a student’s education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the Local Authority, 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.

## **Legal Framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, 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’

## **Local Authority Duties**

The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. St Nicholas Catholic High School has a duty to support the Local Authority in doing so.

### **The LA should:**

1. Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a student will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the student.
2. Ensure the education students receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.
3. Address the needs of individual students in arranging provision.
4. Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
5. Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
6. Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
7. Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

### **The LA should not:**

1. Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
2. Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
3. Have policies based upon the percentage of time a child is able to attend school rather than whether the child is receiving a suitable education during that attendance.
4. Have lists of health conditions which dictate whether or not they will arrange education for children or inflexible policies which result in children going without suitable full-time education (or as much education as their health condition allows them to participate in).

## **School Roles and Responsibilities**

### **The Governing Body is responsible for:**

1. Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
2. Approving and reviewing this policy.

**The Headteacher is responsible for:**

1. Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
2. Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
3. Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on- and off-site activities.
4. Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained.
5. Ensuring the arrangements put in place to meet students' health needs are fully understood by all those involved and acted upon.
6. Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, the LA, key workers and others involved in the student's care.

**The Designated Member of Staff will be responsible for:**

1. Dealing with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
2. Actively monitoring student progress and reintegration into school.
3. Supplying education providers with information about the student's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
4. Liaising with the Headteacher, education providers and parents to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.
5. Providing a link between students and their parents, and the LA.
6. Notifying the LA when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.
7. Providing teachers who support students with health needs with suitable information relating to a student's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the student.
8. Ensuring the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual students.
9. Working collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children.
10. where a student is educated using alternative provision, that in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE), it is the school's responsibility to establish that the provider has undertaken the necessary safeguarding requirements to keep children safe.

**Teachers and support staff are responsible for:**

1. Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.
2. Designing lessons and activities in a way that allows those with health needs to participate fully and ensuring students are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in without a clear evidence-based reason.
3. Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.

4. Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student's health needs.
5. Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life-threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency.
6. Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

**Parents are expected to:**

1. Ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school where possible.
2. Work in partnership with the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for their child.
3. Notify the school of the reason for any of their child's absences without delay.
4. Provide the school with sufficient and up-to-date information about their child's medical needs.
5. Attend meetings to discuss how support for their child should be planned.

**Support for Students**

1. Where a student has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the student's needs and how these may be best met with the Local Authority, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the student.
2. The Local Authority expects the school to support students with health needs to attend full-time education wherever possible, or for the school to make reasonable adjustments to students' programmes of study where medical evidence supports the need for those adjustments.
3. The school will look at all the evidence and consult with all relevant professionals in making reasonable adjustments under students' individual healthcare plans (IHCPs). This will be considered through the Curriculum Modification process and following Local Authority protocols.
4. Students admitted to hospital will receive education as determined appropriate by the medical professionals and hospital tuition team at the hospital concerned.
5. During a period of absence, the school will work with the provider of the student's education to establish and maintain regular communication and effective outcomes.
6. Where appropriate, the school will provide the student's education provider with relevant information, curriculum materials and resources.
7. When a student is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the Local Authority.
8. The school will work with the Local Authority when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.
9. As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
10. If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the student's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the student.

## Examination and Assessment

The named member of staff will liaise with the alternative provision provider over planning and examination course requirements where appropriate. Relevant assessment information will be provided to the alternative provision provider if required. Awarding bodies may make special arrangements for students with permanent or long-term disabilities and learning difficulties, or temporary disabilities and illnesses. Applications for such arrangements will be submitted by the school, or Local Authority if more appropriate, as early as possible.

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| Reviewed by: Student Welfare & Progress Committee | Date: September 2020                 |
| Ratified by Governing Body                        | Date: 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 |
| Review of Policy Due By                           | Date: September 2021                 |