

THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy

Date: April 2024

Review Date: April 2025



OFSTED July 2019

'Pupils feel safe in school and believe that the adults take good care of them.'

'The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in the school is strong.'



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
INSPECTORATE
THE NATIONAL TEAMWORK FOR THE INSPECTION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND HALLS

Catholic Schools Inspection February 2023

'The visitor is left in no doubt that this is a loving Catholic school that prides itself on a genuine, warm welcome.'

'Staff provide the highest level of pastoral care; there is a deep commitment to the most vulnerable.'

'Prayer is central to life in Holy Family.'

At The Holy Family School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus.'

Aims

At The Holy Family Catholic Primary School, it is our vision for every child to be happy, caring and responsible, develop a lifelong passion for learning, achieve their potential and embrace the challenges of the 21st century, whilst holding on to their Christian values and duty to care for all in God's world. This policy aims to ensure that suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs and pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

Provision

Where children are unable to attend school because of their health, the school will follow Department of Education Guidance and work with Hertfordshire Local Authority who have the responsibility to arrange suitable full-time education (or part-time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health.

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who because of illness or other reasons, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

There will however, 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 Local Authority, for example,

- where the child can still attend school with some support.
- where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child for a short time.

Where the Local Authority is involved in arranging provision, the LA will:

- Arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.
- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.
- Ensure that the education children receive is of good quality and allows them to take appropriate external tests, prevents them from slipping behind their peers in school and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus.'

- Address the needs of individual children in arranging provision.
- 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, 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 nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
- Where appropriate, use electronic media – such as ‘virtual classrooms’, learning platforms to provide access to a broader curriculum, but this should generally be used to complement face-to-face education, rather than as sole provision (though in some cases, the child’s health needs may make it advisable to use only virtual education for a time).
- Ensure that teachers who provide education for children with health needs receive suitable training and support and are kept aware of curriculum developments. They should also be given suitable information relating to a child’s health condition, and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the child.
- Set up a personal education plan, which should ensure that the school, the Local Authority, hospital school or other provider can work together.
- Ensure effective collaboration between all relevant services (LAs, CAMHS, NHS, schools and, where relevant, school nurses) in delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.

Where the Local Authority is involved in arranging provision, 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, the school will 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

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Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governing Body is responsible for updating this Policy annually.