

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school policy

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School

A Voluntary Aided School in the Trusteeship of St. Michael's Catholic School
Trustee, a Member of the Loreto Education Trust
Founded by the Sisters of the Poor Child



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1. Aims

Our school aims to ensure that:

- › Curriculum access is provided, as far as practicable, for absent students.
- › Students are, as far as practicable, not disadvantaged in their education through ill health.

2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is motivated by legislation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts> where “Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school” is cited as a statutory policy from September 2019. Although at this point the government has not issued guidance on what they expect this policy to cover – our school has decided to write this policy based upon how it intends to respond to students who fall into this category.

4. Definition

We consider for the purposes of this policy, any children who have a diagnosed health need (identified by a doctor or other health professional such qualifications and position which allows them to diagnose medical conditions). Such children may or may not be also identified as disabled (refer to the SEND policy).

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The headteacher

The Headteacher, or another senior member of school staff will liaise with the family in order to identify the needs of the student concerned. Motivation is to enable access to school, failing that, motivation is to enable access to the curriculum.

5.2 The family

The family will actively liaise with the school, sharing such diagnoses and health reports as necessary to enable the school to gain a full picture of the medical needs of the student and why the student cannot attend full-time school. The family will also be responsible for collecting and returning such materials and equipment deemed necessary by the school for the continuing education of the student off site.

5.3 Health Professionals

Health professionals working with the student should do all within their power to facilitate the ongoing education of the student through sharing of information, providing advice and attending meetings as appropriate.

7. review

The school will organize regular reviews to enable all concerned to grow in their understanding of the barriers to bringing the student into school. The focus of these reviews is to overcome such identified barriers and enable a full access to the curriculum at school.

8. School registers

Such students will not be marked present on school registers and will only remain on school role with the express desire of the parents concerned.

9. Returning to school

Once a student has improved in health, a reintegration strategy will be decided by the school and home. This strategy will respond to the individual needs of the child, but will normally involve a phased return to school and close monitoring by staff.

11. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Attendance Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy