



# Children with health needs who cannot attend school

*September 2024*

Person Responsible: Gareth Jones  
Ratified by Governors:  
Date of planned Review: September 2025



## LOVE

A place of love where **everyone is welcome and respected.**

A family of faith where **everybody matters;** where we are **unique together;** where we plant the seed that will one day **flourish.**

A **community with Christ** at the centre where the dignity of each person is celebrated so that they can **embrace excellence.**

**I AM RESPECTFUL**  
**I AM KIND**  
**I AM INSPIRING**



## LEARN

A place to learn that is **alive with inspiring experiences** and a curriculum rich in knowledge and wisdom.

A family of faith where together we **seek truth, celebrate endeavour and achievement.**

A community that **values curiosity and nurtures learning** into action in the service of others.

**I AM READY**  
**I AM CURIOUS**  
**I AM BRILLIANT**



## LEAD

A place to lead where young people grow to become men and women for others, **creative and courageous, ambitious** for the higher gifts.

A family of faith where we serve with **integrity, hope and determination.**

A community that values justice for the most vulnerable so that all may have **life to the full.**

**I AM CREATIVE**  
**I AM BRAVE**  
**I AM A PROBLEM SOLVER**

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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

St Ambrose Barlow RC High School Swinton aims to 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 in school and will work with Salford 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.

### **2. Legislation and guidance**

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
- Department of Education (DfE) 2013 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.'

It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### **3. Responsibilities of the school**

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The Headteacher and Special Education Needs Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo)/ Deputy Safeguard Lead (DSL) will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.

A meeting will be made with parents/carers to discuss arrangements for working from home or hospital. A plan will be drawn up detailing agreed actions from the discussion, the plan will be signed by the School and parents/carers. The plan will then be carried out to deliver education to the child. The attendance team will conduct home visits throughout.

Arrangements could include sending work home or attending a hospital school. Work will be prepared by class teachers.

The student will be slowly integrated back into school with either alternative arrangements to make it possible such as alternative spaces for break or lunch times or the student may come back into school on a reduced timetable until their health needs have been met.

#### **3.1 If the Local Authority (LA) makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Salford Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The LA should:

- 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. 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.
- Address the needs of individual pupils in arranging provision.
- Have a named officer responsible for the education of children with additional health needs and ensure parents know who this is.
- Have a written, publicly accessible policy statement on their arrangements to comply with their legal duty towards children with additional health needs.
- Review the provision offered regularly to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Give clear policies on the provision of education for children and young people under and over compulsory school age.

The LA should not:

- Have processes or policies in place which prevent a child from getting the right type of provision and a good education.
- Withhold or reduce the provision, or type of provision, for a child because of how much it will cost.
- 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.

- 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).

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, 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 student 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 student to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible;
- Enable the student 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.

The Governing Board and Headteacher are responsible for:

- Ensuring arrangements for students who cannot attend school as a result of their medical needs are in place and are effectively implemented.
- Ensuring the termly review of the arrangements made for students who cannot attend school due to their medical needs.
- Ensuring the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the arrangements to support the needs of students are clear and understood by all.
- Ensuring robust systems are in place for dealing with health emergencies and critical incidents, for both on and off-site activities.
- Ensuring staff with responsibility for supporting students with health needs are appropriately trained.
- Appointing a named member of staff who is responsible for students with healthcare needs and liaises with parents, students, the Local Authority, key workers and others involved in the student's care.
- 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.
- Notifying the Local Authority when a student is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs.

The SENDCo is responsible for:

- Dealing with students who are unable to attend school because of medical needs.
- Actively monitoring pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Supplying students' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, education providers and parents to determine students' programmes of study whilst they are absent from school.

- The Family Partnership Worker will provide a link between students and their parents, and the Local Authority.

Teachers and Support Staff are responsible for:

- Understanding confidentiality in respect of students' health needs.
- 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.
- Understanding their role in supporting students with health needs and ensuring they attend the required training.
- Ensuring they are aware of the needs of their students through the appropriate and lawful sharing of the individual student's health needs.
- Ensuring they are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of common life threatening medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency. Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

#### ***4. Monitoring arrangements***

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Any changes in the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in supporting students with additional health needs, and to parents and pupils themselves.

#### ***5. Definitions***

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 or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses

Chronic Illnesses

Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment
- Home tuition: many Local Authorities have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and students on occasions
- Where students are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical Pupil Referral Unit (PRUs): these are Local Authority establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

## **6. *Links to other policies***

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Attendance Policy
- Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked-After Children (PLAC) Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy



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#IAMONBOARD