



SS John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy

"Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn."



Children with health needs who cannot attend school

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Governor committee responsibility:	Local Governing Body



Ss John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy
Woodhouse Lane, Benchill, Manchester, M22 9NW
Tel: 0161 998 3422 Fax: 0161 945 5616
Email: admin@st-johnfisher-st-thomasmore.manchester.sch.uk



1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs, and that pupils, staff and parents understand the school's responsibilities when education is provided by the local authority (LA). Ss John Fisher & Thomas More will support the LA to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs continue to have access to education as their condition allows, enabling them to reach their full potential. Whenever possible, pupils should receive education within their school, and reintegration will be planned as soon as they are well enough. The school will maintain its role in a pupil's education during absence and work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to provide appropriate support, including digital learning options.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy reflects current statutory guidance and legislation, including: Education Act 1996; Equality Act 2010; Data Protection Act 2018; DfE (2023) 'Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school'; DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'; Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2023); Mental health and attendance guidance (2023); Alternative Provision Guidance (2025).

3. Local Authority Duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Education should start as soon as it is clear a pupil will be away for 15 days or more. Provision must be high quality, allow pupils to take qualifications, and support reintegration. The LA must have a named officer, a published policy, and review provision regularly. Digital and remote education should be considered where appropriate.

4. Definitions

Children unable to attend school due to medical needs may include those with physical health issues, injuries, mental health problems (including anxiety), emotional difficulties, progressive conditions, terminal illnesses, or chronic illnesses. Provision may include hospital schools, home tuition, or remote learning platforms.

5. Roles & Responsibilities

The Governing Body ensures arrangements are in place and reviewed termly. The Headteacher ensures compliance, appoints a named staff member (SENDCo), and arranges training. The SENDCo monitors progress, liaises with LA and parents, and plans reintegration. Teachers design inclusive lessons and maintain communication. Parents provide timely medical information and attend planning meetings.

6. Managing Absences

Parents must notify the school on the first day of illness. Absences under 15 days: school arranges work or part-time attendance. Absences over 15 days: notify LA immediately. Hospital admissions: liaise with LA and hospital tuition team. Digital learning should be offered where feasible.

7. Support for Pupils

Individual Healthcare Plans will guide reasonable adjustments. Support includes online access to curriculum, flexible timetables, additional in-school support, and mental health considerations. Communication with pupils during absence will use newsletters, Class Dojo, email, and invitations to events.

8. Reintegration

Reintegration plans will be tailored, reviewed regularly, and include reasonable adjustments. Digital learning and phased returns will support smooth transition.

9. Information Sharing

Confidentiality will be maintained. Staff will have access to relevant health information. Parents will be informed of rights and responsibilities. Liaison with hospitals and tuition services will ensure continuity.

10. Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and SENDCo and approved by the Governing Body.

11. Links to Other Policies

- Accessibility policy & plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- School Attendance policy

- SEND policy
- First Aid & Medicines policy