



**THE DISTRICT**  
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# **Children with health needs who cannot attend school Policy**

<b>Chair of Governors</b>	Mr F Maguire
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs L Shelford
<b>Date adopted:</b> Spring 23	<b>Review Date:</b> Spring 24

*The caring path to achievement, reflecting the values of Christ.*

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## 1. School Context

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Without me you can do nothing.” Matthew 15:5.

Just as the branches need the vine to grow and bear good fruits, so we need each other. Within the District family, each person is valued and loved, reaching out throughout our school, homes, families, and the wider community for a stronger future. This Bible verse and Christian values underpin life at The District CE Primary School, ensuring that all of our pupils receive quality first teaching in all circumstances. This policy outlines the necessary steps taken where a pupil cannot attend school due to medical and health needs.

## 2. 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

## 3. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority. [SEND \(sthelens.gov.uk\)](#)

## 4. The responsibilities of the school

DfE guidance states that where a child cannot attend school for a time up to 15 days due to additional health reasons, it is the school’s responsibility to provide an education for that child off site.

After 15 days, education arrangements become the responsibility of the Local Authority. In St. Helens, Julie Hoodless is the LA designated Clinical Officer ([juliehoodless@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:juliehoodless@sthelens.gov.uk)).

### 4.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. The head teacher and Assistant Head Teacher (SEND) will be responsible for making and monitoring arrangements.

Where a child is at home, the class teacher will provide work for them. This will be in a blended form, including uploading work to class dojo; providing reading books at the correct level and the child attending lessons from home via Teams. Where a child is in hospital, school will liaise with the hospital school to provide attainment and SEND information.

Reintegration back into school will be considered and planned for on an individual basis. Where a part time reintegration period is needed, school will liaise with parents/ carers to make necessary arrangements. For pupils with an EHCP, school will refer to health needs when reintegrating. For pupils with a specific health diagnosis, school will liaise with medical professionals, ensuring an appropriate health care plan is written and in place.

### 4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the head teacher will contact St. Helens LA Head of Alternative Provision. St. Helens LA will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children, through consultation with school, parents and medical professionals. Government guidance

states that “LAs should arrange provision as soon as it is clear that an absence will last more than 15 days and it should do so at the latest by the sixth day of absence.” (DfE January 2013).

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 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, 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.

## **5. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCO and SEND leads. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

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

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND policy

## **7. Government Guidance**

This policy links to the following Government guidance:

- Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs (statutory guidance for local authorities) January 2013.