



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

A church school community aspiring for all to live life to the full.

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Approved by FGB 11th July 2024

Next Review July 2025

Committee Full Governing Body

Section 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

Section 2: Legislation and Statutory Responsibilities

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#) and 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013.

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

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/17403/la-guidance-for-schools-supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs-amended-5917.pdf>

This policy also considers the guidance provided by the Department for Education in Working Together to Improve School Attendance (May, 2022).

Section 3: The Responsibilities of the School

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School will provide work for pupils with long term medical needs which require hospitalisation or the equivalent home care thus preventing them from attending school. This will be provided using our remote learning platform.

If a child or young person cannot attend school (even with adjustments) then the child or young person will effectively need to be signed off school by a medical professional. There are no official 'sick notes' or 'fit notes' for children from medical professionals; however, a referral accepted by Gloucestershire Hospital Education Service, where a medical professional has confirmed a child or young person is medically unable to attend school even with adjustments, is effectively this.

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, in consultation with parents and appropriate medical professionals. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis.

If the Local Authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Gloucestershire Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

Section 4: Reference to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Attendance policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy