



# Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy

Holy Name Catholic Primary School

## 1. Policy Statement

Holy Name Catholic Primary School is committed to supporting pupils with medical needs to ensure they receive a full and effective education. In line with statutory guidance (December 2023), the school recognises its responsibility to manage health needs that allow attendance and to work with the local authority and other agencies to support pupils who cannot attend school due to health conditions. This policy complements related services such as SEND, CAMHS, educational psychologists, and school nursing services.

## 2. Aims

- To provide appropriate support enabling children with medical needs to attend school and access learning.
- To collaborate with parents/carers, local authority, healthcare professionals, and relevant agencies to ensure continuity and quality of education.
- To ensure timely referral to the local authority for children unable to attend school due to health needs, facilitating suitable alternative provision.
- To involve children in decisions about their education and support, respecting their age and maturity.

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Named School Contact:** The school will designate a named person (Mrs Helen Perry), responsible for coordinating support for children with medical needs, acting as the point of contact for parents and the local authority.
- **Parents/Carers:** Expected to provide up-to-date information on their child's medical needs and to be actively involved in decisions about educational provision.
- **Pupils:** Engaged in discussions about their support and education as appropriate.
- **Local Authority:** Holds the statutory duty under section 19 to arrange suitable education for children who cannot attend school due to health needs. The local authority will have a named officer responsible for this duty and will work closely with the school and families.

## 4. Supporting Children Who Can Attend School



- The school manages medical needs allowing attendance, including short-term illnesses (e.g., chickenpox, influenza) and ongoing medical conditions, following the “Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions” guidance.
- Mental health issues affecting attendance will be supported by the school, with local authority involvement only if the education provided is deemed unsuitable.
- The school complies with the duty to notify the local authority of pupils with long-term absences due to health needs.

## **5. Supporting Children Who Cannot Attend School Due to Health Needs**

- The school will promptly inform the local authority when a pupil cannot attend due to health needs to minimise educational disruption.
- The local authority will arrange suitable alternative provision that is full-time where possible and appropriate to the child’s age, ability, aptitude, and special educational needs.
- Close collaboration between the school, local authority, parents, and healthcare professionals will ensure continuity, curriculum consistency, and smooth reintegration when the child is ready.

## **6. Collaboration and Communication**

- Effective multi-agency working, including CAMHS, NHS, school nurses, and educational psychologists, will be maintained to support pupils’ health and education.
- Service level agreements or multi-agency forums may be utilised to coordinate provision.
- Communication with parents/carers and pupils will be ongoing, with consultation before any changes to provision.

## **7. Siblings and Family Moves**

- Where families move nearer to hospitals for treatment, local authorities will ensure siblings of compulsory school age receive suitable education provision, applying the same statutory duties.

## **8. Raising Concerns and Complaints**

- Parents/carers should raise concerns initially with the school. If unresolved, the school’s complaints procedure should be followed.
- For academies, breaches of funding agreements or legal obligations may be considered.
- Parents may contact the local authority regarding alternative provision concerns and escalate to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman if necessary.
- Further information on complaints is available at [www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint](http://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint) and <https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-school>.



## **9. Looked After Children (LAC)**

- For LAC pupils likely to be placed in alternative provision, the school's Designated Teacher will liaise with the local authority's Virtual School Head to ensure appropriate support and provision.

## **10. Full-Time and Part-Time Education**

- The local authority must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age unable to attend due to health needs, equivalent to mainstream education as far as possible.

## **11. Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in legislation or local authority guidance.

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