



Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

Our Vision Statement:

Our aim is to nurture children with the confidence and self-belief to achieve their best;
to have the courage to think for themselves;
to be resilient in their learning and ambitious in their hopes and dreams;
to live in harmony, respecting others;
to search and question throughout life's journey;
to find personal faith;
and to learn about the Gospel of hope and love found in Jesus Christ.

Seeking to nurture:

Sel**F**-belief Cour**A**ge Res**I**llience Ambi**T**ion **H**armony

“Stand firm... be courageous” 1 Corinthians 16:13

Policy Reviewed: Autumn 2025

Next Review: Autumn 2026

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.

2. Legislation and guidance

- This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school](#)

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 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.

- Our school SENCo will oversee these arrangements alongside the class teacher.
- In cases where it is possible, work will be sent home for those children to prevent them falling behind in school.
- Parents will be contacted by the telephone or face-to-face meetings to structure a suitable plan going forward and any areas of concern.
- Depending on the length of time absent, and the reason for absence, we will make an appropriate plan dependent on each individual situation to reintegrate pupils back into the school environment.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, **or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year)** or more because of their health needs, the Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. We would contact the them to request guidance for each individual case and inform them of the arrangements we have made so far.

We would work with the local authority to ensure that alternative education begins as soon as possible, **and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.**

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs.
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child.
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum.
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
- When a child has a complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence).
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully

When reintegration is anticipated, our school will work with the local authority to:

- Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources.
- Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits.
- Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by St. Gabriel's School.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Medicines and Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions

Supporting pupils with medical conditions