

**'With Jesus we can achieve what we dream and believe'**

School Mission



## **Children With Health Needs Who Are Unable To Attend School Policy**

*The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment.*

### **1. Introduction**

St. Michael's Catholic Primary School works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. Our school will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision.

This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school. This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

The principles underlying this policy are:

- The school recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

### **2. School's Responsibility**

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. The schools 'Remote Education Provision' document will be referred to for guidance. They will be provided with a digital device for use during their period of absence.

Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The school will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- A suitable digital device (Chromebook/laptop/iPad)
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.
- Where practical, the school will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the school's responsibility.
- Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the school will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them.

### **3. Reintegration into the School**

- The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school.
- The school will ensure that the pupils and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school.
- The school will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days.
- The school will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organizing risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary.
- Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or e-mail.
- The school will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

References: See also document 'Remote Education Provision at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School' (January 2021)

Date Approved by Governing Body: 16/03/2021

Chair Governors: Jeanette Riley

Headteacher: Alyson Rigby

Next Review Date: March 2022