



William Law C E Primary School

Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School Policy

Policy shared with staff on [by email/staff briefing]

Policy confirmed by the Governing Body of William Law CE Primary School on:

Date: 24th June 2020

Signature: Kristian Toms (*digitally signed due to being a virtual meeting*)

Policy to be reviewed on: June 2023

This policy is written in line with the Christian values and ethos of our school.

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.

It also based on the policy provided by Peterborough City Council in relation to 'Medical Absence from School-Guidance for Schools'.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

As detailed in the document, 'supporting pupils at schools with medical conditions,' produced by the Dfe <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3> , Schools are required by law to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

The key points detailed in the guidance indicate that:

- Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education;
- Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions;
- Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.

The statutory guidance also indicates that schools should develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and that there should be a named person, who is responsible for the practical implementation of this policy within each school. The named person at William Law CE Primary is Jennifer Paterson (Inclusion Manager and SEND Co-Ordinator).

Peterborough City Council expect the school will attempt to plan to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. They expect that schools will fulfil the following:

- Host and chair regular review meetings when a child is accepted onto medical tuition (normally every 6 weeks); produce action plans and distribute notes of these meetings and ensure that the tuition support provided is of suitable quality;
- Provide a named teacher with whom each party can liaise;
- Liaise with parents, health care professionals and others as needed;
- Provide a suitable working area within the school for the pupil where necessary;
- Be proactive in supporting the reintegration of the pupil back into school as soon as they are well enough;
- Ensure that pupils who are unable to attend school, are kept informed about school social events and are encouraged to maintain contact with their peers.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Peterborough City Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

The statutory guidance is clear that there will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but may receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the local authority. For example, where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of school for the child.

Peterborough City Council are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. This duty applies to all children and young people who live in Peterborough, regardless of the type or location of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the roll of a school.

The law does not define full-time education, but children with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. Peterborough City Council medical needs provision takes the form of one-to-one support within the home environment. Therefore, as a consequence, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer than a "normal" school day as the provision is more concentrated. This would be agreed between the parent, school and the Local Authority and be reviewed on a six-weekly basis.

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.

4. Monitoring arrangements

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