



St Margaret Clitherow
Catholic Primary School

St Margaret Clitherow

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Jan 2025-27

Approval Information

Reviewed by:	Headteacher Mrs A Mulholland	
Reviewed by:	C&S	LGB
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Document History

V1.0	Original
V1.1	Re-format of page 1 to include MTCAT logo, page footer to include filename and version number along with minor formatting improvements.

In line with our Mission Statement at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School we make every effort to ensure all pupils are safe, happy and successful.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children equally and the individual gifts they and all other members of our community bring to school life at St Margaret Clitherow's. We aim to love, respect, value and support everyone in our community.

1. Aims

St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School aims to support the Local Authority and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential. Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within school and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough. We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of all relevant and statutory guidance including:

- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

It is also based on guidance provided by our Local Authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with: -

- Physical health issues
- Physical injuries
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses

4. Responsibilities of the school

4.1 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.

The school will:

- Notify the LA when a pupil is likely to be away from the school for a significant period of time due to their health needs (15 days).
- Work with the Local Authority to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory duties when supporting pupils with health needs
- Work collaboratively with parents and other professionals to develop arrangements to meet the best interests of children
- Assistant Head/SENCo will be responsible for pupils with healthcare needs and liaise with parents, pupils, the LA, key workers and others involved in the pupil's care.

The Head and the SENCO will together:

- Ensure the support put in place focusses on and meets the needs of individual pupils. This will include the design and accessibility of work sent home.
- Arrange appropriate training for staff with responsibility for supporting pupils with health needs.
- Provide teachers who support pupils with health needs with suitable information relating to a pupil's health condition and the possible effect the condition and/or medication taken has on the pupil.
- Monitor pupil progress and reintegration into school.
- Identify when the school is no longer able to support the pupil and support needs to be provided by the LA
- Provide a link between pupils and their parents, and the LA.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Bracknell Forest Local Authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children as outlined in 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013.'

The school will have already informed the Local Authority that the child has been absent for more than 15 days for medical reasons and have kept the Local Authority aware of provision provided.

The Local Authority will provide support through appropriate agencies including the Educational Welfare Service and may additionally refer to the services of The Foundry Unit. In compliance with 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013' they will ensure that the education children receive is of good quality, as defined in the statutory guidance 'Alternative Provision' (2013)

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 Supply pupils' education providers with information about the child's capabilities, progress and outcomes

- 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
- Ensure all staff understand confidentiality in respect of pupils' health needs.
- Ensure staff are aware of the signs, symptoms and triggers of medical conditions and know what to do in an emergency
- Keeping parents informed of how their child's health needs are affecting them whilst in the school.

4. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- SEND Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance Policy