

Christ Church CoE Primary School

Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Statement

1. Aims

This statement sets out how Christ Church C of E Primary School will support pupils who cannot attend school because of physical or mental health needs, where the absence is not a short illness that would normally be managed through routine absence procedures.

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Pupils, parents, carers and staff understand what the school is responsible for when education is being arranged by the school or by the Local Authority.
- Pupils remain connected with school life and are reintegrated safely as soon as it is medically appropriate.

2. Legal framework and guidance

This policy has regard to the Education Act 1996, the Equality Act 2010, statutory guidance on arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs and guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, health needs include physical health needs, mental health needs, injuries, chronic or progressive conditions, hospital admissions or other medical circumstances which prevent a pupil from attending school and accessing suitable education.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Governing body

- Ensure arrangements are in place and reviewed for pupils who cannot attend school because of health needs.
- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy through safeguarding, attendance and SEND reporting routes.

4.2 Headteacher

- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities and that the pupil's needs are considered promptly.
- Notify or liaise with the Local Authority where a pupil is likely to be absent for a significant period because of health needs.
- Ensure information is shared lawfully and sensitively with staff who need to know.

4.3 SENDCo / designated member of staff

- Coordinate the education package with the class teacher, parents/carers and relevant professionals.
- Keep clear records of agreed provision, review dates, communication and reintegration planning.
- Make referrals to the Local Authority health-related education route where school-based arrangements are insufficient.

4.4 Teachers and support staff

- Provide appropriate work or learning materials as agreed in the pupil's plan.
- Maintain contact with the pupil, where suitable, to support belonging and curriculum continuity.
- Apply reasonable adjustments and reintegration arrangements consistently.

4.5 Parents and carers

- Inform school promptly of the absence and provide relevant medical information.
- Work with the school, health professionals and Local Authority to agree suitable support.
- Attend review and reintegration meetings wherever possible.

5. Managing absence due to health needs

Parents/carers should contact school on the first day of absence. Absence due to illness will normally be authorised unless the school has genuine safeguarding or attendance concerns.

For absences of fewer than 15 school days, the school will normally provide proportionate support such as work sent home, remote access to materials, adapted tasks or contact from school, once the pupil is well enough to engage.

Where it is clear that a pupil is likely to be absent for 15 school days or more, either consecutively or cumulatively, the school will liaise with Nottinghamshire County Council and complete the appropriate health-related education referral route. Medical evidence may be required, for example from a consultant, community paediatrician or other relevant clinician.

6. School-arranged education

Where the school can make suitable short-term arrangements, the SENDCo/designated member of staff will work with the class teacher to create a high-quality education package. This may include:

- sending work or resources home
- providing access to lesson materials or videos where appropriate
- loaning equipment needed for learning
- liaising with hospital schools, tutors or other agencies
- prioritising key curriculum content so the pupil does not fall unnecessarily behind

Arrangements will be agreed with the pupil and parents/carers where possible and reviewed at least weekly while the pupil remains unable to attend.

7. Local Authority-arranged education

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority becomes responsible for arranging suitable education. The school will cooperate constructively with the Local Authority, providers, health professionals and parents/carers to secure the best outcomes for the pupil.

- Share information with the Local Authority and relevant health services as required.
- Provide curriculum information, resources and records to support continuity.
- Maintain appropriate contact so the pupil remains part of the Christ Church community.
- Review safeguarding, attendance and welfare information regularly.

8. Reintegration

When the pupil is medically able to return, the school will create a reintegration plan with the pupil, parents/carers and relevant professionals. The plan may include a phased timetable, rest arrangements, reasonable adjustments, adapted work, pastoral support or additional adult support.

Reintegration will be planned close enough to the likely return date to be useful, while avoiding unnecessary pressure on an unwell child or family. Any part-time timetable will be time-limited, reviewed and used only where it is in the pupil's best interests.

9. Information sharing, confidentiality and records

Information about a pupil's health needs will be kept up to date and shared only with staff or agencies who need it to support the pupil safely and effectively. Records will be maintained in line with the school's safeguarding, data protection and records management procedures.

10. Related policies

- Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy and SEND Information Report
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions / Administration of Medication Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Data Protection Policy

Source review used to implement this policy

This Christ Church statement has been prepared from current statutory guidance:

- Department for Education: Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.
- Department for Education: Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.