



EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC

Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Version	2.0
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Ratified by	Full Board
Date ratified	30 th August 2025
Date issued	September 2025
Policy review date	September 2028
Post holder responsible	CEO/School Improvement Lead



Commitment to Equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

This Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy has been approved and adopted by all schools and settings who are part of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company on 30th August 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2028.

Signed by Director of Emmaus Catholic MAC: *J Griffin*

Signed by CEO for Central Team: *S Horan*

This policy relates to all Emmaus schools and settings.



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Table of Changes: Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Section	Change
Section 2	Statements 2.2 and 2.4 added
Section 3	Title changed to ' Responsibilities for Provision '
Section 3	3.2 - Added: "Education will be provided as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, in line with DfE guidance."
Section 3	3.3 – Added <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, when a child of compulsory school age is unable to attend school due to health needs and the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the local authority has a statutory duty to arrange suitable full-time education for that child as soon as it is clear they will be away from school for 15 days or more (consecutive or cumulative).'
Section 3	Amended to make part of it a new section, 3.4 'In cases where the school or local authority have made alternative arrangements for provision, the school and MAC will' Added to this section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All data sharing will comply with GDPR and safeguarding protocols to protect pupil privacy. 'The school will meet regularly and with any external provision and stakeholders to review the provision to ensure it remains suitable and meets the pupil's evolving needs.'
Section 3	Added section - '3.5 Safeguarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school will ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils receiving education outside the school setting, following all safeguarding policies and procedures. Safeguarding visits to either home or educational placement will take place regularly.'
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added links to: School SEND Policy and SEND Information report School Safeguarding Policy Data Protection Equality Policy

1. Aims

- 1.1 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

- 2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).
- 2.2 This policy reflects the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (December 2023)
- 2.3 It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority. As schools within Emmaus Catholic MAC are located within four different local authorities, each school will refer to the guidance provided by their local authority.
- 2.4 Each school will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010, making reasonable adjustments and avoiding discrimination against pupils with health needs.
- 2.5 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities for Provision

- The school will endeavour to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend. We will work collaboratively with parents and other professionals to do this.
- Arrangements to provide education could include work, weblinks, activities and resources sent home; small amounts of direct home tuition from school staff; streamed contact with teachers and support staff.
- As far as possible, when out of school the child can access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- Childrens' progress will be actively monitored by their teachers.
- The school will enable the child and family to stay in touch with school life (e.g., through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
- Children whose health needs require hospitalisation will be referred to the Home and Hospital Tuition team where appropriate.

- All arrangements will be discussed with parents, the Community Children's Nursing team, and other multi-agency staff involved. This includes arrangements for reintegration back into the school.
- Children who have been out of school for a month or more will be supported back into school via a personal risk assessment and re-integration plan. For example, consideration will be given to (but not limited to) any physical risks and adaptations, increased fatigue, and heightened anxiety. (A new individual health care plan may be required)

3.1 If the local authority makes arrangements

- If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, Sandwell local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.
- If a child is out of school 15 or more days in a school year either consecutively or cumulatively the LA is responsible for ensuring educational provision.
- If the School cannot provide this, a multi-agency review involving the School, LA, Health Service, any other partners, and the parents should occur to ensure appropriate educational provision.
- In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school and MAC 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.

3.2 Reintegration

- When a child is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration where necessary with the health services involved. A risk assessment will be undertaken and a revised EHCP may be required.
- A new individual health plan may be required.
- The school is aware that some children will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and pace of return.
- When a child is discharged from hospital or is returning from other education provision, the school will ensure that appropriate information is received to allow for a smooth return to the school. This will require liaison with the hospital or other tuition service as appropriate.

3.3 Education will be provided as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, in line with DfE guidance. Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

3.4 In cases where the school or local authority have made alternative arrangements for provision, the school and MAC 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. All data sharing will comply with GDPR and safeguarding protocols to protect pupil privacy.
- 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.
- The school will meet regularly and with any external provision and stakeholders to review the provision to ensure it remains suitable and meets the pupil's evolving needs.
- 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.
- The school will work with the local authority to ensure a smooth transition and reintegration for pupils returning to school, including a personalised reintegration plan.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

3.5 Safeguarding

- The school will ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils receiving education outside the school setting, following all safeguarding policies and procedures. Safeguarding visits to either home or educational placement will take place regularly.

4. Monitoring arrangements

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and, at every review, it will be approved by the Board of Directors.

5. Links to other policies

- 5.1 This policy links to the following policies:
- Accessibility Plan
 - Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
 - School Attendance Policy
 - School SEND Policy and SEND Information report
 - School Safeguarding Policy
 - Data Protection
 - Equality Policy

