





St Augustine's Catholic High School and Sixth Form

Children who cannot attend School due to Health Reasons Policy

Approved		Date
Chair, Academy Representatives C Hubble		03.12.19
Principal G T O'Connor		02.03.20
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ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Children who cannot attend School due to Health Reasons

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

Luke 15:1-7

Please note that for the purpose of this policy, the term 'medical condition' also refers to mental health conditions.

Aim

St Augustine's Catholic School, has a duty set out in Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 and the DfE Statutory Guidance 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'.

St Augustine's should provide support for our pupils with medical needs under their statutory duties as defined in "Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school" (DfE, 2014). It is only when the pupil's medical condition becomes too complex to manage in school that this policy would then apply.

Other related documents are The Equality Act (2010), the academies act (2010), Ofsted Common Inspection Framework (2017), 'Alternative Provision: Statutory Guidance for local authorities (2013) School and Early Years Finance Regulations (2012).

In line with this duty, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) will oversee suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education. This applies whether or not the child is on the roll of a school and whatever the type of school they attend. It applies to children who are pupils in Academies, Free Schools, special schools and independent schools as well as those in maintained schools.

The law does not define full-time education but children with additional health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school, "unless the pupil's health means that full time education would not be in his or her best interests" (DfE, 2013). If they receive one-to-one tuition, for example, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated. Full time could also be made up in one or more settings.

Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, Worcestershire

County Council will accept part-time education as advised by health practitioners who are also working with the child. The part time education will be regularly reviewed, and a plan for increasing hours will be put in place where appropriate. Full and part-time education will still aim to achieve positive educational progress (particularly in English, Maths and Science) and improved social and emotional health.

Responsibility for alternative provision remains with St Augustine's or when this is not possible, Worcestershire County Council. The nature of the intervention, the objectives, the expected outcomes and timeline to achieve

the objectives should be made clear. Where reintegration to school is an objective, there should be an agreement on how to assess when the pupil is ready to return and the school should provide or commission a package of support to assist reintegration. Objectives and plans should be set out in writing and regularly monitored.

Commissioners (St Augustine's or WCC) should recognise any issues or barriers and hence a potential requirement for alternative provision as early as possible and carry out a thorough assessment of the pupil's needs. A personalised plan for intervention should be prepared by the commissioner, setting clear objectives for improvement and attainment, timeframes, the monitoring of progress and a baseline of the current position from which to measure progress. Plans should also link to other relevant information, such as Education, Health and Care plans for children with SEND.

St Augustine's will review the provision offered regularly, with the family and all professionals concerned, to ensure that it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education.

Links to documentation referred to in the policy:

Department for Education (2013) *Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs*. – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-children-with-health-needs-who-cannot-attend-school>

Department for Education (2014, update 2017) *Supporting children at school with medical conditions* - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

Also has the templates for use by schools and links to other resources.

Department of Education (2013) *Alternative provision*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-provision>