Diocese of Hereford
Multi-Academy Trust

St Michael's CE Primary School

'Growing and learning together'

Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Date: September 2026
School lead: Mrs M Lewis
Governor lead: Mr J Hughes
Review date: September 2027

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/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

The Education Act 1996

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

Alternative provision

Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities of the school

3.1 If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

➢ A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be responsible

for making and monitoring these arrangements

➢ Arrangements may need to be adapted to prioritise the best interests of the pupil at all times. If an

adaptation may be needed, full communication will be sought with parent/guardian.

➢ Initially, work will be sent home to be completed. This could be in an electronic or physical copy. Work will then need to be submitted to the class teacher in the agreed format before subsequent work is set.

➢ Work will be set with a reasonable time frame for completion based on individual needs of the pupil(s)

➢ Parents will be consulted and a plan of action to meet the pupil's needs will be put into place. The aim

of this plan will be to support the child to continue to make progress within their education.

➢ The plan should include regular communication between the school and parent/carer to assess

whether the pupils needs are being met effectively

➢ Pupils will then aim to be reintegrated into school on a phased return basis as best suits their

individual needs. This should be done through a meeting in the first instance with the parent/carer

wherever possible face to face.

3.2 If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Herefordshire Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the local authority must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

Through consultation with the local authority, it will then be decided if the arrangements are suitable to further educational progress.

In cases where the local authority makes the arrangements, our school will:

➢ Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs

➢ Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child

➢ Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum

➢ Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be

appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education

➢ Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required

➢ When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)

➢ Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this

➢ Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources

• Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits

• Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence

• Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by M Lewis (Executive Headteacher). At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions