



ST PHILIP'S CE PRIMARY ACADEMY

EDUCATION OF PUPILS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS – UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Date of policy:	December 2025	Headteacher: Michelle Hargreaves-Swales Chair of Governors: Clare Leighton
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At St Philip's Primary Academy, we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all academy activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at St Philip's Primary Academy. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access the academy and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Vision Statement

Fostering curiosity and a love of learning is at the heart of our teaching. Broadening horizons enables all children to flourish and be fulfilled. Successes are celebrated and failure learned from, allowing us to shine through challenges. Together, we develop qualities of character necessary to be positive future citizens.

Our Values

At St Philip's CE Primary Academy we pride ourselves on developing a positive ethos built on the foundations of the Christian faith, whilst taking into consideration that most of our pupils, staff and community follow the faith of Islam. We endeavour to ensure we are always **'Working together with hope in our hearts'**

This ethos is based on the following values that, as stakeholders, we all aim to uphold:

Value 1: NURTURING

We demonstrate kindness and caring towards each other so that we can find happiness and fulfilment. We promote and support children's wellbeing to support their growth and development.

Value 2: OPTIMISTIC

We believe that having a positive attitude towards situations enables us to be forward thinking and supports us in our goal of providing a good and better education for all of our pupils.

Value 3: ASPIRATIONAL

We have high aspirations for the futures of the children in our Academy. Through a high-quality curriculum and planning of lessons that are specifically tailored for our pupils, they will have the opportunity to achieve and surpass their potential.

Value 4: HOPEFUL

The value of hope is interwoven into our teaching and is and is an expression of our faith. Hope supports our spirituality, and through that, virtues such as forgiveness, empathy and compassion come to the fore.

Value 5: SINCERE

We are united as a whole to ensure integrity, honesty and trust are maintained. This quality within our academy means that we follow our values to ensure that we always do our best for pupils, staff and community.

Value 6: ASSURED

Our goal is to see our pupils confident, armed with independence and conviction, echoing 'Let your light shine' - Matthew 5:16

Value 7: RESPECTFUL

All members of our academy, including pupils, staff, governors, visitors and the wider community, should be treated with respect. We hold politeness in high regard and we are accepting of each individual's uniqueness.

Value 8: KNOWLEDGEABLE

By fostering resilience, collaboration and risk-taking, we craft an environment where pupils are ready to be lifelong learners.

Purpose:

In order to ensure that all children enjoy the fullest access to the life of the school community. This Policy outlines the operational management and safety implications for children unable to attend school due to medical conditions at St Philip's C.E. Primary Academy.

Introduction

St Philip's CE Primary Academy works in partnership with pupils, parents/carers, medical services, other professionals and education providers to enable children and young people with medical needs who are unable to attend school to receive education in a hospital setting or at home. We will be proactive in promoting the education entitlement of pupils on roll and in securing effective provision. This applies to pupils unable to attend school for reasons of sickness, injury or mental health needs where a medical practitioner considers that a child should or could not attend school.

This policy is based upon the statutory guidance for Local Authorities 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs', January 2013. This comes under the category of 'education otherwise' when the child remains on the school roll and is educated temporarily in a hospital setting or through home tuition.

Overarching Principles

The principles underlying this policy are:

- The School recognises that children absent for medical reasons are entitled to continuity of education as far as their condition permits and acknowledges that it has a central role to play in securing and ensuring the continuity of education.
- The education provided shall be of high quality and as broad and balanced as possible such that reintegration is achievable as smoothly as possible.

Procedures

Where a child is absent from school for medical reasons, the School will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education. When an absence is known to be more than 15 days or exceeds 15 days, then home tuition should be offered to the child. This may be provided through the School's resources.

Referral for home tuition can be made by telephone. Medical evidence will be required and should be attached, if possible, at this stage. Where a child is admitted to hospital, the School will liaise with the teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the pupil should be covering during their absence. Where possible, school will plan the educational programme of the pupil with the service provider, taking account (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.

The School will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education of education for the pupil by providing:

- Medium term planning
- Programmes of study/schemes of work
- Appropriate resources
- Information relating to the pupil's ability, progress to date, assessment data, SATs results and special educational needs.

Where practical, the School will host review meetings as the pupil remains on the school roll and is therefore the School's responsibility. Where pupils have recurrent admissions or have a planned admission to hospital, the School will aim to provide a pack of work for the pupil to take into hospital with them. The School will foster communication and sharing of best practice between teaching staff and anyone providing the education otherwise.

Reintegration into the School

The School will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, Personal Advisers, indeed all relevant professionals, the parents/carers and the pupil themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively orchestrated reintegration into school. The School will ensure that the pupils and staff in the School, who have maintained contact with the pupil who has been absent, will play a significant role helping the pupil to settle back into school. The School will accept part-time attendance where pupils are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the pupil is able to attend for full school days. The School will make arrangements for pupils with mobility problems to return to school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessment and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be taken into account and additional support may be required through referral. Throughout the absence, the School will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the pupil. This will include invitations to events and productions at the School as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters or email. Both the School and any education providers will support and advise pupils and their parents/carers, as appropriate, during the absence. The School should expect to receive regular reports and assessment of pupil progress from any service provider during the pupil's absence and a folder of work on return to school.

The Headteacher, usually through the liaison member of staff, will ensure that all relevant staff are aware of a pupil's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child. The Headteacher will report to Governors on the educational provision which has been made for pupils absent for medical reasons.

References: Access to Education for Children and Young People with Medical Needs, DfES0025/2002.
The Education of Children with Medical Needs, Ofsted HMI 1713, pub. 2003 5.

Monitoring and Review

The Governors will be kept up to date with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school. Annual review required.

