

# THE PAINSLLEY CATHOLIC ACADEMY



## The Painsley Catholic Academy

Better Together

### *Children with Health Needs who cannot attend School 2023*

*Approved by:*

*Mr K. Wilson*

*Date: September 2023*

*Last reviewed on:*

*September 2023*

*Next review due by:*

*September 2024*

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## 1. Aims

The Catholic Social Teaching (CST) relating to 'Option for the Poor and Vulnerable' is most appropriate to this policy. This element of CST is about the emphasis that the Church places upon helping the poor and those who are vulnerable. As part of these values, we aim 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

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

It also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of Pupil Referral Units to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

In meeting the duty, the governing body must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under this section.

We have statutory powers under the Education Act 1996 to ensure children attend school and if we cannot successfully engage with the family to achieve this, we may enforce the parents/carers responsibility regarding their child's school attendance.

## 3. The responsibilities of the school and the Local Authority

The school will make every effort to support a child who cannot attend due to health needs (see 3.1 below). The LA will work with the school to support their efforts with such children but will only become responsible for their education if a medical practitioner states that the child is not medically fit to attend school (see 3.2 below).

### 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

We recognise we require additional financial support to meet the on-going educational needs of the pupil due to prolonged medical absence. We will initiate an Education Help Assessment and Care Plan. We may approach the Pupil Referral Unit for advice and guidance around supporting the pupil's education and also consider a referral for an Education Health and Care Needs Assessment.

We will contact the Local Authority clearly stating what additional financial support is required.

The Local Authority should then agree a package of education provision to be jointly funded by school and high needs block.

We will manage the provision and keep the Local Authority updated on the case. Each case should be reviewed with a view to reintegrating the pupil as their medical condition improves.

### *Key points:*

*Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.*

*Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parent/carers to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are effectively supported.*

- Mr A Growcott will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements.*
- Depending on the needs of the pupil, education can be provided via remote teaching, sending work to the family home (returned for marking), possible tuition.*
- Mr Growcott and Mrs M Barlow (Education Welfare Worker) will meet every 6 weeks with parents to review the provision*
- A phased return to school will be set out the first meeting*

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

*Both the school and the local authority must consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made in order to ensure that children and young people are not disadvantaged in their access to education, as well as ensuring that they are not directly or indirectly discriminated against. Some children with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case, the governing body and LA must comply with their duties under that Act. Therefore, although the children and young person's needs may principally be medical, they may have special educational needs as well, because the medical issues mean that their ability to access education has been profoundly affected. This may be to the extent that, despite their intellectual abilities, they are unable to access education at the same rate as before and therefore need to realistically take a lot longer to complete courses of study, and that may require an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).*

*Local authorities are mindful of children and young people with medical conditions which mean they cannot attend schools for periods of time and therefore impact upon a school's published national attendance figures. However, we will in parallel present attendance figures which are calculated excluding children and young people with medical conditions and then present case studies to Governing bodies or Ofsted in support.*

*With the support of the LA pastoral provision and local agencies, the pupil can be expected to attend school on a more regular basis, remaining on the school roll. If provision for education is deemed appropriate at home, there would need to be a clear phased reintegration plan of when the pupil is able to transition back to full time education within their school.*

*We report pupil absence to the LA once a child has been absent for 15 days. If the school can't make suitable arrangements despite making every effort and a medical practitioner states that the child is not medically fit to attend school, Staffordshire will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. This decision will be based on discussions between the school, the LA and the family. The person contacting the LA will be Mr A Growcott (Assistant Principal). They will explain the situation and what has been done to try to make suitable arrangements along with the reasons why these have been unsuccessful.*

*In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school 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*

***Education (Pupil Registration) England Regulations 2006.***

*A pupil can only be removed from the school roll if:*

- *The pupil has been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and:*
- *Neither the pupil nor their parent has indicated to the school the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age.*
- *A child unable to attend school because of health needs must not therefore be removed from the school register without parental consent and certification from the school medical offer.*
- *We must submit medical evidence and parental views to the Local Authority for submission to the Authority's Medical Officer.*

*Email: [educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk)*

*Staffordshire's protocol for dealing with pupils with medical health needs can be found at:*

*<https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/k65/staffordshire/directory/advice.page?id=cwhbuUN'F4cc>*

#### ***4. Monitoring arrangements***

*This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. At every review, it will be approved by the full Board of Directors.*

#### ***5. Links to other policies***

*This policy links to the following policies:*

- *Accessibility plan*
- *Supporting pupils with medical conditions*
- *Safeguarding Policy*