



Supporting Children with Healthcare Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

For all schools in the Bosco Catholic Education Trust

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Trust Board.

Approved:	For review:
May 2022	May 2023

Bosco Catholic Education Trust Mission Statement

The Bosco Catholic Education Trust is a Christ-centered family of Catholic academies, within the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, working together as one body to provide an outstanding education for all. As Catholic schools, we endeavor to develop confident, compassionate and faithful young people. Through partnership, collaboration and mutual support, we seek to enable all those entrusted to our care to become the person God called them to be.

“Serve the Lord joyfully”

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Responsibilities of Bosco Trust Schools.....	2
3. The role and responsibilities of the Local Authority.....	3
4. The responsibilities of the school.....	5
5. Monitoring arrangements	6
5. Links to other policies	6

1. Aims

Bosco Catholic Education Trust is committed to ensuring that all pupils receive a good education in order to maximise the learning potential of each individual. A key part of the Trust’s offer is to ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity of an inclusive education that meets their specific needs.

Pupils who have additional health needs are, by the nature of their difficulties, at risk of failing to reach their true potential within an educational context. This is particularly the case for those pupils whose health needs prevent them from attending school for an extended period of time, or for those who are restricted by their health needs to attending school on a part-time or sporadic basis.

This policy aims to outline the support available for pupils with additional health needs. This includes details of when and how alternative provision will be arranged if required, and the respective roles and responsibilities of the Trust’s schools, parents/carers, providers and other agencies including local authorities.

2. Responsibilities of Bosco Trust Schools

Schools are required by law to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their schools with medical conditions.

This duty is detailed in [Section 100 of the Pupils and Families Act 2014](#) and statutory guidance [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#) has been produced by the Department for Education (DfE) in order to assist schools in understanding and complying with this legislation.

The key points detailed in the guidance indicate that:

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

- Local governing committees must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils with medical conditions.
- Local governing committees should ensure that school leaders consult health care and social care professionals, pupil and parents/carers to ensure that the needs of pupils with medical conditions are supported effectively.

The statutory guidance also indicates that schools should have a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and that there should be a named person who is responsible for the practical implementation of this policy within each school.

3. The role and responsibilities of the Local Authority

The Local Authority has a duty set out in [Section 19 of the Education Act 1996](#) and in the statutory guidance, [ensuring a good education for pupils who cannot attend school because of health needs](#).

This policy meets the requirements under [Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#) which places a duty on trust boards to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their schools with medical conditions.

It is also based on the DfE's statutory guidance: [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#).

The [Equality Act 2010](#) is also an important part of the legal framework around pupils with significant medical needs.

The statutory guidance is clear that there will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but may receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the local authority. For example, where the child can still attend school with some support or where the school has made arrangements to deliver suitable education outside of the school of the child.

The local authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for pupils of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision (unless the local authority considers that a pupil's condition means that full-time provision would not be in their best interests. This duty applies to all pupils who live within the local authority boundaries, regardless of the type (inclusive of pupils attending academies, free schools, special schools, independent schools or maintained schools) or location (where a child is ordinarily resident in a local authority but attends school outside the local authority, the local authority of residence retains responsibility for arranging medical needs provision for that child) of the school they would normally attend and whether or not they are on the roll of that school.

The law does not define full-time education, but pupils with health needs should have provision that is equivalent to the education they would receive in school.

3.1 Named person

It is a statutory requirement that local authorities have a named person responsible for the education of pupils with additional needs. Please see the appropriate local authority's guidance for further information.

The named person responsible for the education of pupils with additional needs, in liaison with schools and professionals, ensures that Children's Services fulfils its statutory duties in relation to medical needs provision for pupils who cannot attend school for medical reasons.

Parents/carers can contact the named person responsible for the education of pupils with additional health needs in order to discuss their child's specific circumstances relating to medical needs education provision. This may be particularly appropriate in instances where they feel their child's needs educational needs are not being addressed due to a medical need or ill health.

Schools can contact the named person responsible for the education of pupils with additional health needs in order to obtain support, advice and guidance in relation to the medical needs education provision and their own statutory responsibilities in supporting pupils with additional health needs, both in general terms and in relation to specific cases.

The named person responsible for the education of pupils with additional health needs will also liaise with professionals and colleagues within both health and education as appropriate in order to ensure pupils with additional health needs are able to access a suitable education.

3.2 Children who are not on a school roll

The local authority retains responsibility for supporting pupils who are not on roll at a school (Children Missing Education) whose health needs prevent them from accessing education.

In these instances, parents/carers or professionals working with a child who falls into this category should contact either the Education, Health and Care Plan Co-ordinator (for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan) or alternatively the local authority specialist adviser to discuss future educational provision.

3.3 Early Years and Post-16

Local authorities will normally provide support for pupils who are between the ages of 5 and 16 (Reception Year to Year 11). However, where pupils who would normally be in Year 12 are repeating Year 11 for medical reasons, requests for support will be considered on an individual basis.

For post-16 students attending mainstream provision, the local authority would look to the host school, college or training provider to make any necessary reasonable adjustments for students who are unwell over a prolonged period.

3.4 Hospital in-patients

The local authorities provide education for pupils who are in-patients at in-county hospitals, as well as offering transitional support for pupils being discharged from long stays in hospitals or those pupils who have repeat admissions.

In certain instances, particularly in the case of severe mental health needs, pupils may be placed in specialist residential hospitals outside of the local authority by the National Health Service (NHS). Many of these facilities have access to an on-site education provision or school that can offer education as part of the package of care. The local authority retains responsibility for the education of these pupils whilst they remain in hospital and upon their discharge. In advance of a proposed discharge, particularly in the instance that an alternative provision is being proposed, parents/carers or professionals working with a child who falls into this category should contact either their Education, Health and Care Plan Co-ordinator (for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan) or alternatively the local authority's named person responsible for the education of pupils with additional health needs to discuss future educational provision.

3.5 Pupils with life limiting and terminal illness

The local authority will continue to provide education for as long as the pupil's parents/carers and the medical staff wish it.

3.6 Medical Needs Referral Criteria

Medical needs referrals will ordinarily be made by the school at which the pupil is on roll. All referrals should be sent to the Local Authority Specialist Adviser for pupils with additional medical needs. Referrals should be accompanied by the following documents:

- An appropriately completed medical needs referral form. Incomplete forms or those that do not contain sufficient detail are usually returned.
- A letter from a medical consultant* that clearly states that the child is unable to attend school because of their health needs (medically unfit for school)

Note* Where advice from a medical consultant is not yet available, medical evidence will be expected from at least one of the following medical professionals

- General Practitioner
- CAHMS Professional (i.e., medical health nurse/mental health practitioner)
- The local authority's ME/CFS service (i.e Specialist Physiotherapist)

Following the acceptance of a referral, The Specialist Adviser for pupils with additional medical needs will contact the relevant short stay school to request that interim medical needs provision is implemented without delay. A planning meeting will then determine the structure of the provision for an initial period of 12 school weeks) or for the period that the student is absent from school, whichever is shorter). The provision will ordinarily consist of one-to-one sessions within the pupil's home. The number and length of the sessions will depend on each individual case and be agreed upon in the planning meeting. There is an expectation that the pupil's home school will plan and mark the work delivered in these sessions.

If after this initial period, the student is unable to return to school, further medical advice will be required for this provision to continue.

3.7 Re-integration

The aim of the provision from the Medical Needs Service will be to reintegrate pupils back into school at the earliest opportunity as soon as the pupil is well enough. A reintegration programme will be put together following discussion with the pupil, parent/carer, school, relevant health professional(s) and other involved agencies as appropriate.

In some cases, it may not be possible for the pupil to return to school on a full-time basis initially. Arrangements for reintegration (or any other future educational arrangements) will need to take into account any ongoing health problems or disabilities the pupil might have.

3. The responsibilities of the school

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

The healthcare needs preventing a child attending school in the scope of this policy will be as recognised by the appropriate local authority.

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

The child's class teacher in primary schools and the Head of Year in secondary schools will be responsible for ensuring work is sent home and is in line with the curriculum and will utilise remote working where possible.

Families will be encouraged to keep in touch with the school and support the child to access their school work.

Microsoft teams or the school's remote working platform will be utilised if appropriate for lessons and homework.

Re-integration will be carefully considered and a phased return plan will be put in place if this is in the child's best interest.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, the appropriate local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Trust Board.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions