



St Philip Howard
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Supporting Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Governors of the Standards committee

Approved	Review
June 2025	June 2026



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”

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs. This will include physical, emotional and mental 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 is also based on guidance provided by our local authority West Sussex County Council.

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

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 County and decided by a consultant or equivalent level of professional within the appropriate field of health.

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school. Work and homework will be set via ‘homework’ on Edulink and other hard copy formats if appropriate. The Child’s Head of Year and Leadership link will be responsible for ensuring work is sent home and is in line with the curriculum and will utilise online support where possible.

Families will be encouraged to keep in touch with the school and support the child to access their schoolwork and the school will work as closely with the family and child as possible during the period of absence.

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 in relation to;

- The steps and actions above in 3.1 due to health needs.
- A child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of their health needs.

It will become the responsibility of West Sussex County Council to support with arranging suitable education for the child(ren). The 15 days may be consecutive or over the course of a school year.

Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively supported.

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.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the DSL/Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

As part of the internal processes and systems, students absent from school with health needs will be regularly monitored as part of the Pastoral and Safeguarding meetings.

Specialist staff including, Inclusion, Medical and Safeguarding Personnel will share updates they have received from external professionals at timely points, that will be updated internally and included in the policy during the annual review process.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility plan

Supporting pupils with medical conditions