

Policy on pupils with Health Needs

This policy is the Durham County Council Policy

Approved by:	The Governing Body	Approved on:	1st July 2014
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I. Introduction

A number of pupils may experience difficulties in maintaining continuity of education because of health issues at some time during their school career. These issues may be short or long-term, to which St Leonard's Catholic School needs to respond in order to ensure that all pupils access their statutory entitlement to education.

St Leonard's Catholic School is committed to promoting inclusion, equality of opportunity and continuity of education for pupils with health needs.

This policy applies to pupils who are temporarily unable to attend school because of illness, injury, pregnancy, anxiety and identified mental health problems.

The purpose of this policy is to reflect and to confirm Durham County Council's statutory duties in accordance with:

- Section 19 of the 1996 Education Act which states that Local Authorities have a duty to 'make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who by reason of illness, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them'
- DfE Statutory Guidance January 2013 – 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs.'
- Equality Act 2010

2. Shared Roles and Responsibilities

Ensuring access to education for pupils with health needs is the responsibility of the Local Authority and St Leonard's Catholic School.

2.1 Local Authority Responsibilities

The Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that:

- there is a named Local Authority officer with responsibility for the co-ordination of educational provision for young people who are unable to attend school because of health needs.

The named Local Authority Officer is Helen Perfect.

- pupils with health needs are not at home or in hospital without access to education for more than 6 school working days.
- pupils who are unable to attend school because of illness or injury have their educational needs identified early and receive appropriate educational support as quickly as practicable.
- pupils receive a minimum entitlement of 5 hours teaching per week.
- there is close liaison between parents, pupils, schools and other agencies.

The Local Authority must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would otherwise not receive suitable education.

2.2 Support and Alternative Arrangements provided by the Local Authority:

- information, advice and support to pupils, parents/carers, schools and other agencies about pupils with health needs (physical, emotional and mental).
- teaching, where appropriate, in Local Authority venues, at home or in hospital.
- support towards school re-integration.
- information about the provision the Education Health Needs Team can offer.

- input into multi-agency meetings
- training to schools and other agencies

2.3 The school's responsibilities

St Leonard's Catholic School has a responsibility to:

- have a clear policy and a named person responsible for pupils who are unable to attend school because of health needs.

named person is Mr D. P. Murray (Deputy Head Teacher)

- nominate a governor responsible for reviewing the procedures that apply to educating pupils with health needs.

named Governor is Mrs M. Harrison

- ensure that the pupil remains on the school roll
- establish guidelines for school staff on maintaining meaningful contact with pupils and parents when a pupil is absent through health needs
- seek confirmation of ill health and make reasonable adjustments to maintain continuity of access to education
- refer pupils to the Education Health Needs Team if the pupil is, or is likely to be, absent from school for more than 15 school working days because of health needs
- work in partnership with the Education Health Needs Team to provide information about the pupil's strengths and needs
- provide the Education Health Needs Team with robust work plans to ensure continuity of progress
- facilitate appointments with key teachers and/or subject specialists
- share information in order to maintain an up-to-date record of the pupil's progress
- liaise regularly with the Education Health Needs Team to monitor provision, review progress and support reintegration
- ensure pupils have access to public examinations
- ensure that the needs of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs or EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) are met
- ensure that the views of students and parent/carers are taken into account
- maintain a regular review system
- make reasonable adjustments to maintain good attendance and progress once the child has resumed attendance at school

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

St Leonard's Catholic School's policy will be reviewed and revised at least every 3 years. The named person in school will report annually to the Governing Body. This report will contribute to the school's self-evaluation of our provision for pupils with health needs. County-wide data is available from the Education Health Needs Team.

4. References:

'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' Statutory guidance for local authorities January 2013
 Equality Act 2010
 'Promoting Children's Mental Health Within Early Years and School Settings' – DfES ref 0112/2001. 1996 Education Act.