



St. John's Church of England VA Primary School
Finding the light in ourselves and each other
Inspired by the Gospel according to John (chapter 8, verse 12)

An aspirational school that encourages every child regardless of their background to 'soar on wings like eagles' in their learning and personal development (Isaiah 40:31)

Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Approved By:	Quality of Education Committee
Issued:	Spring 2026
To Be Reviewed:	Spring 2027

*A truly inclusive school that is built upon the values of
Hope - Joy - Love - Forgiveness - Faith - Goodness*



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Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents/carers understand what our school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority (LA)

The purpose of this policy is to enable St Johns Church of England VA Primary School (**St John's** or the **school**) to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to health needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school, and the aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupils' education whilst they are not in school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation:

- [The Education Act 1996](#)
- [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Data protection Act 2018](#)

It is also based on the following statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

- [Alternative provision](#)
- [Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs](#)

This policy also follows guidance provided by our local authority.

Responsibilities of the school

If our school makes the arrangements

Initially, our school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver the same high standard of education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, including the following:

- Initial contact will be made by the Headteacher to establish the child's individual medical needs and potential barriers to attending school
- The class teacher will liaise with parents to agree arrangements for the provision of learning and to ensure the child has access to the full curriculum



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- Identify in-school support for the child to have ongoing support to address educational, social and emotional needs
- Children will be able to access online learning platforms such as Seesaw, Times-table Rockstars and Numbots (as directed by their teacher)
- Current curriculum is available on the year group page of the school website
- On-going discussions between families, school and health providers to monitor the agreed arrangements and identify when/how the child can be reintegrated back into school, with reasonable adjustments made, preparing an individualised reintegration plan, where appropriate
- Liaising with SENCO for pupils who also have additional needs.

If the local authority makes the arrangements

If our school cannot make suitable arrangements (as validated by a health professional), or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of the year) or more because of their health needs, Hertfordshire County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. In this situation, the school should submit a referral to ESMA for support.

Where full-time education is not in the child's best interest for reasons relating to their physical or mental health, Hertfordshire County Council must arrange part-time education on whatever basis it considers to be in the child's best interests.

In cases where Hertfordshire County Council makes the arrangements, our school will:

- Provide to the local authority, at agreed intervals, the full name and address of any pupils of compulsory school age who are not attending school regularly due to their health needs
- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for the child
- Collaborate with the local authority to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum, including making information available about the curriculum
- Along with the local authority, regularly review the provision offered to ensure it continues to be appropriate for the child and that it is providing suitable education
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- When a child has complex or long-term health issues, work with the local authority, parents/carers and the relevant health services to decide how best to meet the child's needs (e.g. through individual support, arranging alternative provision or by them remaining at school, being supported at home and back into school after each absence)
- Where possible, allow the child to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- Help make sure 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 child to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible, including through digital resources
 - Enable the child to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, digital learning platforms, social media platforms, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school), and, where appropriate, through educational visits
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school, which includes extra support to fill any gaps arising from the absence
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made



Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Quality of Education Committee.

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- SEND Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives



Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Document Control

2 nd March 2026	Approved	Quality of Education Committee Annual review. Minor changes to include reference to additional legislation and policies. Update to 'Aims' to make them clearer.
19th February 2025	Approved	Quality of Education Committee
19th February 2025	Created	Arnold Worton-Geer