



EMMAUS

CATHOLIC MAC

Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Version	2.0
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Ratified by	Full Board
Date ratified	30 th August 2025
Date issued	September 2025
Policy review date	September 2028
Post holder responsible	CEO/School Improvement Lead



Commitment to Equality:

We are committed to providing a positive working environment which is free from prejudice and unlawful discrimination and any form of harassment, bullying or victimisation. We have developed a number of key policies to ensure that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in relation to human dignity and dignity in work become embedded into every aspect of school life and these policies are reviewed regularly in this regard.

This Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy has been approved and adopted by all schools and settings who are part of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company on 30th August 2025 and will be reviewed in September 2028.

Signed by Director of Emmaus Catholic MAC: *J Griffin*

Signed by CEO for Central Team: *S Horan*

This policy relates to all Emmaus schools and settings.

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Table of Changes: Supporting Children With Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Section	Change
Section 2	Statements 2.2 and 2.4 added
Section 3	Title changed to ' Responsibilities for Provision '
Section 3	3.2 - Added: "Education will be provided as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, in line with DfE guidance."
Section 3	3.3 – Added 'Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, when a child of compulsory school age is unable to attend school due to health needs and the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the local authority has a statutory duty to arrange suitable full-time education for that child as soon as it is clear they will be away from school for 15 days or more (consecutive or cumulative).'
Section 3	Amended to make part of it a new section, 3.4 'In cases where the school or local authority have made alternative arrangements for provision, the school and MAC will' Added to this section: - All data sharing will comply with GDPR and safeguarding protocols to protect pupil privacy. 'The school will meet regularly and with any external provision and stakeholders to review the provision to ensure it remains suitable and meets the pupil's evolving needs.'
Section 3	Added section - '3.5 Safeguarding' The school will ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils receiving education outside the school setting, following all safeguarding policies and procedures. Safeguarding visits to either home or educational placement will take place regularly.'
Section 5	- Added links to: School SEND Policy and SEND Information report - School Safeguarding Policy - Data Protection - Equality Policy

1. Aims

- 1.1 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 understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority.

2. Legislation and guidance

- 2.1 This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).
- 2.2 This policy reflects the Department for Education statutory guidance 'Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs' (December 2023)
- 2.3 It is also based on guidance provided by the local authority. As schools within Emmaus Catholic MAC are located within four different local authorities, each school will refer to the guidance provided by their local authority.
- 2.4 Each school will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010, making reasonable adjustments and avoiding discrimination against pupils with health needs.
- 2.5 This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Responsibilities for Provision

- 3.1 Each school should create their own school policy using this Emmaus policy as a template and referring to their local authority guidance, changing the information highlighted in yellow in line with the contextual procedures in each setting.

Check the relevant local authority guidance on providing education to children with additional health needs, to see what responsibilities it places on you in this circumstance.

Adapt the sections below as needed. You'll also need to edit the text in section 3.2 if your responsibilities deviate from what we've set out, which is general good practice derived from [DfE guidance](#).

3.2 If the school makes arrangements

Education will be provided as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative, in line with DfE guidance. Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

You may want to add more details on areas such as:

- Who in the named school will be responsible for making and monitoring these arrangements
- What sort of arrangements could be made (e.g. sending work home, hospital schools)
- How you will consult parents and pupils about these arrangements
- How you will reintegrate pupils back into school

3.3 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school is unable to make suitable arrangements, the appropriate local authority (INSERT NAME) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils. Under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, when a child of compulsory school age is unable to attend school due to health needs and the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the local authority has a statutory duty to arrange suitable full-time education for that child as soon as it is clear they will be away from school for 15 days or more (consecutive or cumulative).

You may want to add more details about how and when the local authority would take over responsibility, such as:

- How it will be decided if arrangements are 'suitable'
- How many days a child would need to be absent from school
- The process for referring a child to the local authority

3.4 In cases where the school or local authority have made alternative arrangements for provision, the school and MAC 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. All data sharing will comply with GDPR and safeguarding protocols to protect pupil privacy.

- 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.
- The school will meet regularly and with any external provision and stakeholders to review the provision to ensure it remains suitable and meets the pupil's evolving needs.
- 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.
 - The school will work with the local authority to ensure a smooth transition and reintegration for pupils returning to school, including a personalised reintegration plan.
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

3.5 Safeguarding

- The school will ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils receiving education outside the school setting, following all safeguarding policies and procedures. Safeguarding visits to either home or educational placement will take place regularly.

4. Monitoring arrangements

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and, at every review, it will be approved by the Board of Directors.

5. Links to other policies

- 5.1 This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- School Attendance Policy
- School SEND Policy and SEND Information report
- School Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection
- Equality Policy