

St. Anselm's Catholic Primary School



Supporting Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Date of Approval:	19 th November 2025
Review frequency	Annual
Next review date:	Autumn 2026
Reviewed by:	Miss Diana Marshall, Attendance Lead Mrs Laura White, Headteacher

This policy was presented to the FGB on 19th November 2025 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2026, or sooner if required.

Mission Statement

St Anselm's is a community of faith, serving local families and providing a Catholic education. We strive to work in partnership with parents and carers to:

- **Inspire children to be ambassadors of Jesus** through meaningful prayer, thoughtful reflection, exploration of the Gospel and acts of service;
- **Ignite a love for life-long learning** by encouraging and challenging children through purposeful learning opportunities;
- **Include and value everyone**, recognise and celebrate uniqueness and promote self-appreciation and mutual respect;
- **Empower children to be ambitious, confident and aspirational** now and in their vision for the future;
- Provide an environment where positive wellbeing and mental health ensures everyone feels **safe, happy and loved as children of God.**

1. 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 the school is responsible for when education is being provided by the local authority.

2. Principles

- 2.1. St Anselm's is committed to educating every child including when pupils have health conditions that preclude them from attending school on a regular basis.
- 2.2 The primary aim of educating children and young people who cannot attend school due to medical reasons or a health condition is to minimise, as far as possible, the disruption to normal schooling by continuing education as normally as their health needs allow.
- 2.3 Pupils who are unable to attend school because of medical needs should be able to access suitable and flexible education appropriate to their needs and the nature of the educational provision made must be responsive to the demands of a changing medical status.
- 2.4. St Anselm's will work with the Local Authority to arrange suitable full-time education (or part- time when appropriate for the child's needs) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness,

would not receive suitable education without such provision. It applies equally whether a child cannot attend school at all or can attend only intermittently.

- 2.5. The law does not define full-time education but children with health needs should have provision, which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school. If they receive, one-to-one tuition the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.
- 2.6. Where full-time education would not be in the best interests of a particular child because of reasons relating to their physical or mental health, the LA should provide part-time education on a basis they consider to be in the child's best interests. Full and part-time education should still aim to achieve good academic attainment particularly in English, Maths and Science.
- 2.7 There will be a wide range of circumstances where a child has a health need but will receive suitable education that meets their needs without the intervention of the LA – 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 school for the child.
- 2.8 All pupils should be treated as individual cases.
- 2.9 As far as possible, pupils should be involved in any decisions from the start with the ways in which they are engaged, reflecting their age and maturity.

3. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-attendance/children-with-long-term-illness>. It also draws upon the statutory guidance, “Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs” (DFE 2013).

4. Responsibilities of the school

Under 2013 government statutory guidance, the school has the initial responsibility in making necessary arrangements or adjustments to meet the children’s health needs. As soon as parents are aware that their child has a long-term illness or medical condition they need to talk to the school so that the school can provide necessary support.

3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, which will be set using an online platform. Any arrangements made will be flexible and reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the pupil. The school will work in partnership with pupils, parents/ carers, the local authority, medical and educational professionals to ensure the best possible outcome for each child. If the pupil and parents wish to withdraw from education their wishes will be respected if the decision is supported by medical advice.

When reintegration into school is anticipated, the School will work closely with any external organisations to ensure that pupils receive the necessary support they need to facilitate this process. A member of the school staff will hold a meeting with the appropriate external organisation and the pupil’s parent(s). In many cases, a gradual reintegration will take place with a reduced timetable. Appropriate external professionals may work alongside a pupil when they are returning to school so a good handover takes place and the pupil feels confident in their return. Appropriate work will be provided if there is a delay in the ability to have an appointment with a suitably qualified medical professional.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, or if it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days (consecutive or over the course of a year) or more because of their health needs, the local authority will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these pupils.

When the local authority arranges alternative education, the education should begin as soon as possible, and at the latest by the 6th day of the child's absence from school.

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

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
- Provide 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
- 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 pupil and that it is providing suitable education
- Where possible, allow the pupil to take examinations at the same time as their peers, and work with the local authority to support this
- 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. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- SEND Policy
- Inclusion and Attendance Policy
- Safeguarding Policy