



Supporting Children with Health Needs who Cannot Attend School Policy

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Xavier Catholic Education Trust in October 2022

**Committee Responsible: Audit and Risk Committee
To be reviewed in October 2024**

Xavier Catholic Education Trust Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all the pupils in our schools. We will follow the example and teachings of Christ and everything we do will be inspired by gospel values. We will strive for excellence in all areas of our work and cherish every child in our care.

1. Aims

Xavier Catholic Education Trust (XCET) is committed to ensuring that all pupils and young people receive a good education in order to maximise the learning potential of each individual. A fundamental part of our offer aims to ensure that all pupils and young people are given the opportunity of an inclusive education that meets their specific needs.

Pupils and young people who have additional health needs are, by the nature of their difficulties, at risk of failing to reach their true potential within an educational context. This is particularly the case for those pupils and young people whose health needs prevent them from attending school for an extended period of time, or for those who are restricted by their health needs to attending school on a part-time or sporadic basis.

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 this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

[Education Act 1996](#).

Equality Act 2010

Data Protection Act 2018

‘Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs’ DfE (2013)

‘Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions’ DfE (2015)

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

3. The responsibilities of the school

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.

The SENCO/ class teacher will consult with the parents/carers of the child to agree how work will be set and with what frequency, as well as what support can be provided to assist the family in supporting their child to complete the work. This will depend upon the age and needs of the child

Arrangements could include:

- Personalised work sent home for the child to complete
- Use of online learning platforms or other appropriate online resources
- Virtual or remote support through video conferencing
- Creating opportunities for access to the wider curriculum, where possible.
- Referral to St Peter's Centre (Short Stay Medical School)
- The child will be reintegrated at the earliest opportunity as soon as they are well enough. A reintegration program will be put together following discussion with the pupil or young person, parent/carer, school, relevant health professional(s) and other involved agencies as appropriate. Arrangements for reintegration will take into account any ongoing health problems.

3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

Surrey County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. Statutory guidance for local authorities sets out that they should be ready to make arrangements under this duty when it is clear that a child will be away from school for 15 days or more because of health needs (whether consecutive or cumulative across the school year).

The law does not define full-time education, but pupils with health needs should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would receive in school.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents/carers 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, the school will 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 biennially. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust Board of Directors.

5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Xavier Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Xavier SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy