

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



**SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS
WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY**

January 2023

Review Date: Spring 2024

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 condition DfE (2015)

Rationale

Every child should have the best possible start in life through a high quality education, which allows them to achieve their full potential. A child who has health needs should have the same opportunities as their peer group, including a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Government's policy intention is that all children, regardless of circumstance or setting should receive a good education to enable them to shape their own futures. Therefore alternative provision and the framework surrounding it should offer good quality education on par with that of mainstream schooling, along with the support pupils need to overcome barriers to attainment. This support should meet a pupil's individual needs, including social and emotional needs, and enable them to thrive and prosper in the education system.

As far as possible, children with health needs and who are unable to attend school should receive the same range and quality of education as they would have experienced at their home school.

Our Vision

All that we do at St Joseph's is shaped by our commitment to our Faith. The choices we make and the expectations we nurture in our children emanate from a guiding desire to live our lives according to gospel values. In the words of our Mission Statement, written by the children:

- *We are God's family, here to learn and try our best.*
- *God is at the heart of everything. Prayer is behind us in all that we do.*
- *As friends of Jesus, we treat others with respect, as we would wish to be treated ourselves.*
- *We want everyone to be the best person they can be.*
- *We are all amazing in our own way.*
- *We look after the wonderful world that God created for us.*

Providing Suitable Education

When a child is unable to attend school for medical reasons, there are two ways in which their educational needs will be met:

St Joseph's Provides Learning Support

Depending on the child's medical needs, it might be possible for work to be completed at home by the child, supported by their family. St Joseph's will work with the family to ensure that access to learning is full and equal wherever we can. Where appropriate we will make use of Google Classroom, our learning platform. Support might include face to face contact with teachers and support staff where possible and appropriate.

The SENCO will liaise 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.

The child will be reintegrated back to school at the earliest opportunity as soon as they are well enough. This might include part time attendance when necessary. A reintegration program will be put together in liaison with the parent/carer, relevant health professional(s) and other involved agencies as appropriate.

The Local Authority Provides Learning Support

Surrey County Council (local authority (LA)) are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children who – because of illness or other reasons – would not receive suitable education without such provision. This means that where a child cannot attend school because of health problems, and would not otherwise receive a suitable full-time education, the LA is responsible for arranging provision and must have regard to this guidance.

When a child is in hospital for a long period, Surrey County Council will liaise with the school and other professionals to ensure continuity in learning. In this instance the role of the school will be to provide information about the curriculum a child may have missed in order to assist them in keeping up, rather than having to catch up.

When treatment of a child's condition means that his or her family have to move nearer to a hospital, and there is a sibling of school age, the local authority into whose area the family has moved should seek to ensure that the sibling is offered a place, where provision is available, for example, in a local mainstream school or other appropriate setting.