

# ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## POLICY FOR CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a Christ centred community where every person's uniqueness is celebrated with joy and truly valued. We foster caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love. We embrace the different communities to which we all belong – home, school and parish, as well as our local, national and global families. When we welcome the child, we welcome the family. We strive for excellence in all we do to be the best that we can be.

### OVERVIEW

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School we believe that a pupil who has health needs should have the same educational opportunities as their peer group, including access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Our school recognises that LAs are responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision. In those circumstances, this school will do all that it can in partnership with parents, guardians and carers, the LA and other support agencies to ensure that pupils with health needs and who are unable to attend school, receive the same range and quality of education as they would have experienced in school.

### INTENT

1. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will work with the LA, pupils' parents, guardians and carers and other agencies to do all that it can to offer them help and support in providing a quality education in the very challenging circumstances that the pupils face when their health needs prevent them from attending school.
2. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will do all that it can by working with the LA and other agencies to ensure that as far as possible pupils with health needs that prevent them from attending school feel fully part of our school community and are able to stay in contact with classmates, and have appropriate access to the opportunities enjoyed by their peers.
3. St. Peter's Catholic Primary recognises that the nature of the provision must be responsive to the demands of what may be a changing health status.
4. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will do all that it can to enact the DfE guidelines for ensuring a good education for pupils who cannot attend school because of health needs.

### IMPLEMENTATION

1. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will provide appropriate support for children who are absent from school because of illness for a shorter period, for example when experiencing chicken pox or influenza. This is likely to take the form of intervention or catch up work when the child is well enough to return to school.
2. The DfE guidance indicates that LAs should be ready to take responsibility for any child whose illness will prevent them from attending school for 15 or more school days, either in one absence or over the course of a school year, and where suitable education is not otherwise being arranged. In those circumstances St. Peter's Catholic Primary will liaise with the LA to agree the provision needed for that pupil.

3. Where a pupil is absent from school and in hospital for an extended period of time St. Peter's Catholic Primary will liaise with the LA about the programme to be followed whilst the child is in hospital. We will work in partnership with the LA and hospital provision on the pupil's personal education plan, which is drawn up by the LA, to ensure that St. Peter's Catholic Primary, the LA, the hospital and any other providers can work together.
4. Where a pupil has complex or long-term health issues and the pattern of illness can be unpredictable, St. Peter's Catholic Primary will work with the parents, guardians and carers and LA to discuss the pupil's needs and how these may best be met. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will discuss the needs with the relevant clinician and the parents, and where appropriate with the child. Support may be offered through individual support or by them remaining at school, or being supported back into school after each absence. How long the child is likely to be out of school will be important in deciding this.
5. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will collaborate with the LA to complement the education the pupil receives if they cannot attend school full-time but are well enough to have education in other ways.
6. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will make full use of the information that parents, guardians and carers can provide to inform the teaching approach where it is making provision for those pupils in partnership with the LA.
7. In the case of a looked after child, the LA is responsible for safeguarding the child's welfare and education and so St. Peter's Catholic Primary will do what it can to support that provision.
8. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will work with the LA to ensure that pupils are involved in decisions from the start, with the ways in which they are engaged reflecting their age and maturity.
9. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will work with the LA, parents, guardians and carers and other agencies to help ensure that the right provision is offered and to encourage the child's commitment to it.
10. St. Peter's Catholic Primary is committed to being involved (where appropriate), in effective collaboration between all relevant services including LAs, CAMHS and the NHS - which are essential to delivering effective education for children with additional health needs.
11. Whether the child is in hospital or at home, St. Peter's Catholic Primary will be prepared to engage in liaison with hospital teaching staff and the LA's alternative provision/home tuition service to ensure continuity of provision and consistency of curriculum.
12. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will make information available about the curriculum and work the pupil may miss to help them keep up, rather than having to catch up.

### **IMPACT**

Where it is appropriate, St. Peter's Catholic Primary will play a big part in making sure that the provision offered to any pupil who is unable to attend school for medical reasons is as effective as possible; and that at the right time, the pupil can be reintegrated back into school successfully. St. Peter's Catholic Primary will use the DfE guidance and LA support to ensure that the needs of the pupil are met in the best and most appropriate manner.

Katherine Ryan  
Headteacher

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