

St Robert of Newminster Catholic School & Sixth Form College



Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy



The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust is an exempt charity. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number 07890590. The registered office address is Barmston Court, Turbine Business Park, Nissan Way, Washington, SR5 1NY.

1. Aims and statement of intent

BWCET aims to work closely with the Local Authority (LA) to ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to health/medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their health/medical condition allows, so that they reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health/medical needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision.

We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should experience their education within school and the preferred aim of the provision will be to reintegrate pupils back into school as soon as they are well enough.

We understand that we have a continuing role in a pupil's education whilst they are not attending school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with health/medical needs receive the right level of support.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Legal Framework

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
- DfE (2013) 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following BWCET policies:

- Attendance Policy
- Accessibility plan
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Records Management Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

3. The responsibilities of the School

Initially the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for pupils who are unable to attend school due to health reasons. This will be discussed with parents/ carers and the student to ensure the most appropriate work is selected. The arrangements will be monitored by the SENDCO working alongside the pastoral and curriculum teams.

Suitable arrangements may include the following (this is not an exhaustive list and will be tailored to suit the needs of the individual students):

- Sending work home for the student to complete and return
- Setting work online and/ or utilising online platforms
- Research tasks
- Project work

The setting of the work will be monitored by the SENDCO working alongside the pastoral and curriculum teams.

Before a student returns to school a re-integration meeting will be held with parents/ carers in attendance. A clear plan will be put into place of how the student will be re-integrated back into school. This may be on a phased return or set days/ hours. The plan will be documented and monitored by the Head of House.

4. If the Local Authority makes arrangements

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
- 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

Local Authority Duties

The LA must arrange suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education without such provision.

The Trust/School has a duty to support the LA in doing so. The LA should:

- Provide such education as soon as it is clear that a pupil will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative
- They should liaise with the appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the pupil
- Ensure the education pupils receive is of good quality, allows them to take appropriate qualifications, prevents them from falling behind their peers in school, and allows them to reintegrate successfully back into school as soon as possible.

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs J Bowen, Designated Safeguarding Lead. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

Date reviewed: November 2023
Next review: November 2024