



# The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust

## Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School Policy

Agreed by the DCET Trust Board on: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Review Date: July 2024

Signed:   
Chair of Trust Board

Date: 27.07.2023

Version Number	Date Amended	Comments and Changes	Date Approved	Author	Approved By
1			30.06.2022	CEO	
1	20.07.23	No changes	27.07.2023	CEO	Trust Board

*This policy applies to all academies within the DCET*

## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for children on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs.
- Children, staff, and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It is also based on guidance provided by our local authority.

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

Initially the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

- Where the child is absent from school for medical reasons, the school will provide education tasks and resources for use at home when the child is well enough to engage in education.
- Where the child is admitted to hospital, the school will liaise with the hospital teaching service to inform them of the curriculum areas the learner should be covering during their absence. Where possible, the school will plan the educational programme of the learner with the service provider, considering (as appropriate) of the medical condition, treatment, effects of medication, therapeutic programmes provided and the duration of absence from school.
- The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust will aim to ensure maximum continuity of education for the learner through:
  - Working in partnership with the Hospital Tuition Service, to attend or host review meetings as the learner remains on the school roll and is therefore their responsibility.

- Providing, where required, programmes of study/schemes of work. Appropriate resources, information relating to the learner's ability, progress to date, assessment data and special needs information.
- Aiming to provide a pack of work for the learner to take into hospital with them, where learners have recurrent admissions or have planned admissions to hospital

#### 4. Reintegration into the School

- The school will work with providers of education, doctors, educational psychologists, and all relevant professionals, the parents/carers, and the learner themselves to plan a gradual and sensitively planned reintegration into school.
- The school will ensure that all learner and staff in the school who have maintained contact with the child who has been absent will play a significant role in helping them settle back into school.
- The school will accept part-time attendance where learners are medically unable to cope with a full day, until the learner is able to attend for full school days. All reduced offer arrangements will be recorded by the Trust and schools will provide details as required.
- The school will arrange for learners with mobility problems to attend school, taking account of health and safety issues, organising risk assessments, and seeking advice on lifting and handling procedures where necessary. The impact on staff will be considered and additional support may be required from the school budget where appropriate.
- Throughout the absence, the school will maintain contact with both parents/carers and the learner. This will include invitations to events and productions at the school as well as regular communication via letters, newsletters, or emails. Both the school and the education

provider will support and advise learners and their parents/carers, as appropriate during the absence.

- The school should expect to receive regular reports and assessments of the learner's progress from the Hospital Education Service and a folder of work on return to school.
- The headteacher or SENDCo will ensure that relevant staff are aware of a learner's absence and of their responsibility towards maintaining continuity of education for the child.

#### **5. If the Local Authority makes arrangements**

- If the school cannot make suitable arrangements, the Local Authority in which the child resides will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children. Statutory guidance – Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs, January 2013, states that Local Authorities must arrange suitable full-time education (or as much education as the child's health condition allows) for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness would not receive a suitable education.
- Local Authorities should provide such education as soon as it is clear the child will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative. They should liaise with appropriate medical professionals to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child.

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 learner.
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the learner is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully and
- When integration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
  - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside of the school, allowing the learner to access

the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible

- Enable the learner 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 and
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

## **6. Monitoring Arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the SENDCo within the schools with the CEO. It will be approved by the Trust Board

## **7. Links to Other Policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

Accessibility Policy

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy