CLAYTON ST JOHN

C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL NEEDS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

Ratified by Governors:	17th March 2026	Signed Headteacher: Mrs G Emsley Full Governing Body
Review date:	Spring term 2028	

Vision Statement

"Growing Together in God's Love"

Our Vision

At Clayton St John CofE Primary we pride ourselves on developing a positive ethos built on the foundations of the Christian faith. This ethos is based on the following Values and principles that, as stakeholders, we all aim to uphold:



Safeguarding Statement of Intent

At Clayton St John CofE Primary, we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment so pupils can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. All staff and visitors have a responsibility to safeguard pupils, including promoting their welfare online. This policy should be read alongside our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and is underpinned by Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 (statutory from 1 September 2025).

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy outlines Clayton St John CofE Primary School's responsibilities for ensuring that pupils who cannot attend school due to medical needs continue to access suitable, high-quality education. It reflects statutory duties placed on schools and local authorities and aims to support continuity of learning, welfare and reintegration.

Schools and local authorities must provide education for pupils whose health prevents regular school attendance, in line with **Section 19 of the Education Act 1996**. [haringey.gov.uk]

The policy incorporates updates from the latest DfE guidance, including:

- **Education for Children with Health Needs Who Cannot Attend School (Updated 14 Dec 2023) [gov.uk]**
- **Arranging Education for Children Who Cannot Attend School Because of Health Needs (Dec 2023)** Arranging education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs
- **Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, 2024)** Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024/2025** Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK
- **Arranging Alternative Provision – Guide for LAs and Schools (Feb 2025)** Arranging Alternative Provision - guide for LAs and schools

2. Policy Principles

Clayton St John CofE Primary School is committed to ensuring:

- Pupils with medical needs receive education that is suitable, appropriately challenging, and flexible.
- Education is provided as soon as the pupil is well enough to engage, including through remote or blended learning where appropriate.
- Absence due to medical needs does not result in a loss of progress or wider disadvantage.
- Reintegration is planned carefully and sensitively, working with parents, carers, medical professionals, and local authority staff.
- Safeguarding requirements under KCSIE 2025 apply fully, including for pupils learning off-site or online.

3. Legal and Statutory Framework

Provision for pupils unable to attend school because of medical needs must comply with:

3.1 Statutory Duties

- **Section 19, Education Act 1996** – LAs must arrange suitable education for children unable to attend school due to illness. **[haringey.gov.uk]**
- **Children and Families Act 2014, Section 100** – Schools must support pupils with medical conditions. **[haringey.gov.uk]**
- **Equality Act 2010** – Requirement to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities or long-term health needs**.** Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

4. Responsibilities of the School

4.1 Initial Support During Absence

The school will provide:

- Work, resources, and communication for pupils absent short-term due to medical reasons.
- Adjustments based on medical advice (e.g., reduced workload, flexible deadlines).
- Remote or digital learning when appropriate.

4.2 Referral Threshold for Local Authority Provision

When a child's medical absence is expected to exceed **15 school days (consecutive or cumulative)**, the school will refer to the local authority to arrange additional support or teaching.

4.3 Liaison with Medical Professionals

The school will work with:

- Hospital or home tuition services
- NHS clinicians and therapists
- Educational psychologists

This ensures the curriculum and timetable reflect the pupil's medical needs, treatment, and energy levels.

4.4 Record-Keeping and Safeguarding

- Attendance and engagement will be recorded in line with 2024 attendance guidance.
- Safeguarding procedures apply fully to pupils learning away from the school site.

5. Reintegration into School

The school will plan a gradual, flexible, and sensitive return tailored to the pupil's needs, guided by current DfE expectations.

This will include:

- A reintegration plan, agreed with parents, clinicians, and the pupil.
- A phased timetable if recommended, referencing 2024 attendance guidance.
- Reasonable adjustments (e.g., rest breaks, reduced physical demands).
- Ongoing emotional wellbeing support.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 School Leaders

- Ensure provision complies with all national guidance and LA processes.
- Oversee reintegration plans and quality of alternative provision.

6.2 SENDCo

- Coordinate communication with LA, medical services, and staff.
- Maintain and update Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Monitor the impact of educational arrangements.

6.3 Class Teachers

- Provide suitable work matched to the pupil's curriculum.
- Maintain contact with pupils where appropriate.

6.4 Parents / Carers

- Share medical information promptly.
- Support engagement with remote or alternative provision.

7. Monitoring and Review

- The SENDCo will report annually to Governors on the effectiveness of provision.
- This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if legislation changes.
- The review will consider updates to DfE guidance, LA procedures, and safeguarding expectations.

8. Linked Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Managing Medical Conditions Policy
- Attendance Policy
- SEND Policy
- Remote Learning Policy
- Accessibility Policy and Plan
- Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Equality Information and Objectives