



# Lady Boswell's C.E. (Aided) Primary School

*Learning Together,  
Christ at the centre,  
Learning for Life*

## **Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy**

Date of Policy: January 2021

Date Reviewed: January 2024

Approved: January 2024

Date of Next Review: January 2025

**Revised Review Date: January 2027\***

Policy authorised by: Full Governing Body

Signature:

Author of Policy:

\*Upon review of this policy, the Governors have agreed that an extension to a 3-year cycle is appropriate. As a result a revised review date is shown above.

We value every member of our community as a unique child of God and seek to demonstrate His love through our words and actions. We enable every child to achieve their full potential so that they leave us with their heads inspired and their hearts enriched.

**As a result, our children will:**

Develop a positive sense of self and well-being; confident to make the right choices and keep themselves safe in an ever-changing society

Strive for academic excellence, developing a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning

Become effective communicators, collaborators and leaders

Be resilient, resourceful and courageous

Be curious, creative individuals and confident problem solvers

Grow in spiritual awareness and develop a strong moral compass and a deepening understanding of the Christian faith in a multi-faith British society

Become responsible and tolerant global citizens who value diversity, forgive readily, and have concern for the needs of each other, the school, the wider community, and the planet.

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## 1. Aims

Lady Boswell's aims to support the Local Authority (LA) and ensure that all children who are unable to attend school due to medical needs, and who would not receive suitable education without such provision, continue to have access to as much education as their medical condition allows, to enable them to reach their full potential.

Due to the nature of their health needs, some children may be admitted to hospital or placed in alternative forms of education provision. We recognise that, whenever possible, pupils should receive their education within their school and the 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 the school and will work with the LA, healthcare partners and families to ensure that all children with medical needs receive the right level of support to enable them to maintain links with their education.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs

- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the Local Authority

## 2. Legislation and guidance

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'

### DEFINITIONS:

Children who are unable to attend school as a result of their medical needs may include those with:

- Physical health issues.
- Physical injuries.
- Mental health problems, including anxiety issues.
- Emotional difficulties or school refusal.
- Progressive conditions.
- Terminal illnesses.
- Chronic illnesses.

**Children who are unable to attend mainstream education for health reasons may attend any of the following:**

- Hospital school: a special school within a hospital setting where education is provided to give continuity whilst the child is receiving treatment.
- Home tuition: many LAs have home tuition services that act as a communication channel between schools and pupils on occasions where pupils are too ill to attend school and are receiving specialist medical treatment.
- Medical Pupil Referral Units (PRUs): these are LA establishments that provide education for children unable to attend their registered school due to their medical needs.

## 3. The responsibilities of the school

### 3.1 If the school makes arrangements

Initially, where a pupil has a complex or long-term health issue, the school will discuss the pupil's needs and how these may be best met with the LA, relevant medical professionals, parents and, where appropriate, the pupil.

- Parents will be invited to meet with the school (likely the Inclusion Manager or Headteacher and Class Teacher) and medical professionals to discuss the arrangements for educational provision. The meeting may take place face-to-face or virtually.
- The School will utilise platforms such as Google Classroom (GC) to set work and allow the child access to activities like registration

- › All resources will be sent home where possible such as maths work books, calculators, word banks, letter strips etc.
- › Where possible school will ensure the child has SEND support materials such as coloured overlays, wobble cushions etc.
- › The Wellbeing lead or SENCO will check in weekly.
- › The Class Teacher (CT) will mark work in line with the school policy for all work uploaded to GC.
- › If necessary the school will loan IT equipment to ensure the child has access to a lap top or iPad

### **3.2 If the local authority makes arrangements**

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, Kent County Council (KCC) will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

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.

## **4. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.

## **5. Reintegration**

When a pupil is considered well enough to return to school, the school will develop a tailored reintegration plan in collaboration with the LA.

- The school will work with the LA when reintegration into school is anticipated to plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside school.
- As far as possible, the child will be able to access the curriculum and materials that they would have used in school.
- If appropriate, the school nurse will be involved in the development of the pupil's reintegration plan and informed of the timeline of the plan by the appointed named member of staff, to ensure they can prepare to offer any appropriate support to the pupil.
- The school will consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to provide suitable access to the school and the curriculum for the pupil.
- For longer absences, the reintegration plan will be developed near to the pupil's likely date of return, to avoid putting unnecessary pressure on an ill pupil or their parents in the early stages of their absence.
- The school is aware that some pupils will need gradual reintegration over a long period of time and will always consult with the pupil, their parents and key staff about concerns, medical issues, timing and the preferred pace of return.

- The reintegration plan will include:
  - The date for planned reintegration, once known.
  - Details of regular meetings to discuss reintegration.
  - Details of the named member of staff who has responsibility for the pupil.
  - Clearly stated responsibilities and the rights of all those involved.
  - Details of social contacts, including the involvement of peers and mentors during the transition period.
  - A programme of small goals leading up to reintegration.
  - Follow up procedures.
- The school will ensure a welcoming environment is developed and encourage pupils and staff to be positive and proactive during the reintegration period.

## **6. Links to other policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding Policy