St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL POLICY

THE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Learning and growing together in God's love

September 2026

Review date: September 2027

Children with health needs who cannot attend school policy

Norfolk County Council is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education* for children of compulsory school age who, because of illness, would not receive suitable education otherwise.

Norfolk County Council commission the Short Stay School for Norfolk** to support the home-learning of children that are unable to attend school because of health needs. St Francis of Assisi can make a Medical Needs Referral for a child who cannot attend school because of health needs where they will be away from school for 15 days or more, whether consecutive or cumulative.

Details of the Medical Needs Referral process and the evidence required can be found via The Norfolk County Council Medical Needs Service Policy***

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

1. Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil.
2. Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required.
3. Help make sure the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully.
4. 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 their lessons from school)
    - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
    - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made.

*Unless it is evident that a pupil's medical condition means that full-time provision would not be in his or her interests.

**Further information on the Short Stay School for Norfolk can be found on their website http://www.theshortstayschoolfornorfolk.co.uk/

***https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/education-and-learning-policies/medical-needs-education-provision-policy