

Name of Policy	Children with health needs who cannot attend school
School Lead	Head teacher
Governor Lead	FGB
Date of last Review	March 2023
Date of Approval	March 2024
Date of next Review	January 2025
Links to other policies	Accessibility plan Supporting pupils with medical conditions Attendance policy
Chair of Governors sign off signature and date	<i>B. Temple</i> 11.3.24

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Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend a school base due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what provision is available for pupils who are unable to attend a base, and the circumstances under which education or pastoral support from the Pilgrim school can be withdrawn.
- Legislation and guidance:
 - This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Act, 1996; Equality Act 2010; SEND Code of Practice, 2014; DfE Ensuring a good Education for Pupils Who Cannot Attend School Due to their Health Needs, 2014.

The responsibilities of the Pilgrim School

The Pilgrim School is a DfE designated hospital school. It is commissioned by Lincolnshire Local Authority to provide education for children with health needs under Section 19 of the 1996 Education Act.

The default position of the school is to provide education within a base setting. The Pilgrim school has 3 bases in Lincolnshire:

- Lincoln,
- Amber Hill (Near Boston)
- Baumber (Near Horncastle)

It is recognised, however, that for some pupils their health needs are such that they are unable to access a base, or they are unable to access a base full time and consequently have a “blended” package or reduced timetable.

Lincolnshire Local Authority is the commissioning authority. As the commissioner the Local Authority decides the amount of education in the home that each receives. The Local Authority has said that hours of tuition and support can be flexible to meet the needs of students. However, if a pupil is able to access more than 10 hours support per week then SLT will decide if they should be taught in a base.

Decision Making:

The criteria for home tuition includes the following:

- A recommendation by health colleagues – for example if a young person is recovering from an operation or physical ailment.
- A joint assessment by Pilgrim staff and other professionals where the physical / mental health needs of a young person are such that they cannot access a base provision.
- A joint assessment by Pilgrim staff and other professionals where the safeguarding or mental health needs of the young person are such that they cannot be met in a base.

The person who is the final decision maker is the head teacher of the Pilgrim school.

All pupils in the home will have a pastoral plan. This plan should, in most cases, set targets for integration into base provision. Or alternative education placements where appropriate.

Pupils who are too ill to engage with education:

- We recognise that some pupils who are referred to the Pilgrim school are too ill to access formal education.
- Such pupils will be subject to pastoral support and a pastoral plan. Such a plan will have as the focus engagement with education.
- Such plans are time limited and reviewed.

Pupils who have health as a priority rather than education:

- Some pupils are so ill that they are unable to access education or pastoral support.
- In these circumstances the support of the Pilgrim school will be withdrawn.
- The decision for withdrawal lies with the head teacher. The head teacher will ensure that reasonable steps to engage with the family and pupil have been followed based on the evidence available.
- In these circumstances other agencies will be notified that withdrawal is a possibility in good time before the decision is made. In the event of a withdrawal decision being made the family, other agencies working with the family and the LA EBSA panel will be notified of such a decision.

In some circumstances families and pupils, for whatever reason, will not engage with the Pilgrim school. In these circumstances the procedure outlined above will be followed.

Roles and Responsibilities of Individuals:

The Governing Body:

The governing body of the Pilgrim School will:

- Ensure that this policy is set, implemented and monitored.
- Hold the head teacher to account for decision making, particularly decisions which result in the withdrawing of provision.
- Hold the head teacher and leaders to account for the implementation of pastoral support plans in the home.

The Head teacher:

The Head teacher will:

- Act as the decision maker for determining which pupils are taught in the home;
- Act as decision maker regarding the withdrawal of provision for any reason;
- Ensure that professionals within the Pilgrim school communicate clearly and in a timely way with other professionals.
- Ensure that the LA EBSA panel is informed when provision is withdrawn from a pupil as well as the mainstream school.

Pastoral Manager:

- Will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of pastoral plans for individual pupils
- Monitor and report to the Head teacher those pupils who are not engaging in provision
- Routinely report on attendance and reintegration rates to the governing body

Academic Leads:

- Ensure that there is clear communication with mainstream schools regarding the provision for young people in the home; including the curriculum offered; attendance/engagement concerns, progress and if necessary the withdrawal of provision.

Pastoral Support and Well being Specialist:

- Will liaise and communicate with professionals and agencies supporting the family and pupil;

- Attend multi-agency meetings to discuss any concerns relating to pupils
- Make referrals to additional support agencies where appropriate
- Work with the family, pupil, academic link and other professionals on the production, implementation and monitoring of a pastoral support plan.

Monitoring arrangements

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

Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Attendance policy