

Attendance Policy Addendum - Covid-19

Current guidance for school attendance

In line with current government guidance, school attendance will be mandatory from the start of the new school year, except where statutory exemptions apply.

It is understood that some students may be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).

If rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent.

Where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will immediately offer them access to remote education. We will monitor engagement with this activity.

Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school

All other children must attend school. We will bear in mind the potential concerns of students, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning and put the right support in place to address this. This may include children living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes.

If parents of children with significant risk factors are concerned, we recommend discussing their concerns with school so that we can provide reassurance of the measures that are being put in place to reduce the risk in school.

Students of compulsory school age must be in school unless a statutory reason applies (for example, the pupil has been granted a leave of absence, is unable to attend because of sickness, is absent for a necessary religious observance etc).

There is an expectation that parents/carers will let the school know if a child is unable to attend and the reason. Contact will be made with the child's parent or carer on the first day of absence where this does not happen.

This guidance is subject to change. Click [here](#) for full government guidance on school reopenings.