



School Attendance Addendum: in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) **during the 2020 to 2021 academic year**

We look forward to school re-opening to all years and your child/ren returning. These guidelines are in conjunction with the Government and full documents can be obtained on the gov.uk website. Please contact school if you have any concerns as we are here to support you and your children in a safe return to school.

Attendance expectations (Department for Education 2020)

From the start of the autumn term 2020 **pupil attendance will be mandatory** and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Attendance and marking of the register

There will be some circumstances, related to Covid – 19, where pupils cannot attend. In view of this a new category of non-attendance has been added – 'not attending in circumstances related to Covid-19'. This will be recorded using code X. This code will not count as an absence, authorised or unauthorised, for statistical purposes.

Examples of the circumstance to which this code will apply include:

- Pupils who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed Covid-19
- Pupils who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed Covid-19
- Pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine
- Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown scenario only (for example, has cancer)

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Please keep in contact with school. Once it is safe to do so school will expect you provide any evidence to help support us in managing the risks to keep children, staff, families and the wider community safe.

Any non-attendance where contact cannot be established will be deemed as a safeguarding matter and school will follow the attendance and safeguarding procedures.

School Census

This will resume in January 2021 to collect data for the Autumn Term 2020. Attendance and absence codes will be collected.

COVID Symptoms and Testing

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child has symptoms of Coronavirus you should arrange for them to be tested immediately.

- If the test is **negative** they should return to school as long as they feel well. *(If they feel unwell this will be recorded as illness).*
- If the test is **positive** they should self- isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started and return to school when the symptoms have gone. *(If they continue to have a cough or loss of smell/taste they may return to school because these symptoms often continue for several weeks after the infection has gone.)*

If someone in the child's household has symptoms they should arrange to be tested.

- If the test is negative the child should return to school.
- If the test is positive the child should self-isolate for 14 days from the onset of the person's symptoms.

How to get a test

A test needs to be taken **in the first 5 days of the onset of symptoms**. Apply online at **GOV.UK** or ring **119** if you are having problems online.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

School should be informed immediately about test results. We will ask for evidence of the test result after it is safe for your child to return to school.

If you have been in close contact with someone who has symptoms or confirmed Coronavirus.

If you are contacted by the NHS track and trace service you will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

Stay at home guidance for households

If you need to self-isolate your household members must stay at home. You should not go to work, school, GP, Pharmacy or public places. Do not use taxis or public transport. Arrange for food and essentials to be brought to you and exercise should be taken in the garden.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Shielding

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August 2020. Children on the shielding list can return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. If local conditions cause this to change you will be notified via a government issued letter. This should be shared with school.

Specialists in paediatric medicine have reviewed the evidence on the level of risk posed to children and young people from COVID-19. The latest evidence indicates that the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. (digital NHS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19#definition>

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Leave of Absence/holidays/quarantine

Holidays should be arranged for school holiday periods not term time. Please be aware that you may need to self-isolate if you take a holiday to a destination which requires quarantine.

Remote education

Will immediately be available to those pupils not attending due to Covid-19.

Helpline

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: 0800 046 8687. Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

If you are in self-isolation as a household, struggling as a family and have no other means of support please contact school. We have a variety of internal and external support workers who may be able to help.