

Attendance Policy Coronavirus (COVID-19) 2020-21 Addendum

Although school attendance is mandatory from the start of the autumn term, there are some circumstances where pupils cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Pupils who are required to self-isolate as they, or a member of their household, has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)

Pupils who have symptoms should self-isolate and get a test.

If a pupil tests negative and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating and return to school.

If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. They should only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

If someone in the pupil's household has symptoms, the household should self-isolate and the member of their household should get a test.

If the member of the household tests negative, the pupil can stop self-isolating and can return to school.

If the household member tests positive, the pupil should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days from when the member of their household first had symptoms.

In all cases of self-isolation, schools should ask parents to inform them immediately about the outcome of a test. Schools should not require evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation,

Pupils who are required to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has symptoms or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19)

Pupils may not have symptoms themselves but may be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with coronavirus (COVID-19).

The NHS Test and Trace guidance states that a person should self-isolate for 14 days if they have had recent close contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). In the event of a confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case in the school community, the local health protection team will provide advice on who this applies to, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with the person that has tested positive when they were infectious.

Pupils who are required by legislation to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine

Parents should plan their holidays within school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time. Families should also consider that their child may need to self-isolate following trips overseas that require a period of quarantine.

Pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable in a future local lockdown scenario only

Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August 2020. This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can return to school, as can those who have family members shielding.

If in future, rates of the disease rise in local areas, children still on the shielding list (or family members still on the shielding list) from that area, and that area only, may be contacted by the government and advised to stay at home and shield during the period where rates remain high. Families will receive a letter if they are required to shield again that parents will be able to share with the school.

Schools should contact parents of pupils who are shielding when measures in the local area are lifted and shielding is paused again, to set out expectation that they can return to school.

Local lockdown

If the rates of disease rise locally, schools may need to prevent some pupils from attending. Schools should follow PHE or DHSC guidance on what measures are necessary in the event of local lockdown.

Remote Learning Provision

From 5th January 2021 the government made the decision to close schools to all but the children of critical workers and the most vulnerable pupils in order to limit numbers and prevent the spread of Coronavirus. Pupils in these categories who are self-isolating should not attend school. Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils are also advised not to attend school. Where a parent wishes for their child to be absent, schools should authorise the absence during this national lockdown period. This absence will not be penalised.

All other pupils should receive remote education. FCA will continue to record attendance in the register and will follow up on absences of the pupils who are expected to be in school. FCA are operating a remote learning system through Microsoft Teams whereby pupils will follow their usual timetable. All pupils who are not receiving on-site provision are expected to follow their usual timetable and log in to online live lessons or complete work set from their class teacher.

Where a student is unable to attend their online lessons for reasons such as illness or technical difficulties, parents should contact the school office to make them aware of the reason for absence. Lesson attendance will be recorded in Class Charts and parents will receive a log in to access and monitor their child's attendance to online lessons. Parents are encouraged to access this regularly and contact school with any concerns.

Where pupils are not accessing lessons on a regular basis, parents will receive a telephone call to make them aware of this and to see if there is anything we can do to support the pupil back to learning. Where we are unable to engage parents via a telephone call, text messages, emails and letters will be utilised. We may also carry out welfare checks at the child's home to ensure they are safe and to offer further support. Any home visits that are carried out will be conducted by our Early Help worker who will follow the Together for Children Covid-19 risk assessments and procedures.

All pupils who are not eligible to be in school will be marked as Code X. They are not attending because they are following public health advice. As vulnerable children are still expected to attend school full time, they will not be marked as Code X if they are not in school (except if they are shielding, self-isolating or quarantining). If the parent of a vulnerable child wishes their child to be

absent, the parent should let the school know. The DfE expects schools to grant applications for leave of absence given the exceptional circumstances. This will be recorded as code C (leave of absence authorised by the school) unless another authorised absence code is more applicable.

For additional information please refer to;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952443/210114_School_national_restrictions_guidance_FINAL_14012021.pdf